100313

consens

TENNEY TOUR ! forces have killed 14 Kurdish rebels and lost two of their southeast of the country, the Anatolia news agency re-ported Saturday. Eight of the Name of the Kur-list Labour Party (PKK), rebels, belonging to the Kurregion, the others in the Hak-kari and Mardin sectors, the and Mardin sectors, the same said, quoting a state-time of time. On Friday and prefecnumber one. On Friday a Turkish police helicopter crashed for mknown reasons

Gunmen slay 6 Algerian FLN members

TUNIS (R) — Gunmen have shot dead six members of Algeria's legal opposition National Liberation Front (FLN) party, whose leader is under fire from the government for oining peace talks abroad with outlawed Islamists. The official Algerian news agency said on Saturday that the six men, aged between 43 and 61, were killed on Thursday in the village of Lahlef, Relizane province, some 255 kilometres southwest of Algiera. APS quoted a security force statement which blamed the killings on "armed terrorists," the official term for anti-regime guerrillas. The FLN is among eight main opposition groups, including the omlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which signed a joint proposal in Rome on Friday aimed at ending their country's civil strife (see page 12).



Inter-faith team returns from Vatican

AMMAN (Petra) — An Islamic-Christian delegation on Saturday concluded a three-day visit to the Vatican's Inter-Faith Dialogue Department. Senator Kamel Al Sharif, who headed the delegation, said the delegation presented a memorandum to the Pope on interfaith dislogue and the need to work on a just world peace in interfaith dislogue and the need to work on a just world peace in addition to other issues such as developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Chechenya. Mr. Sharif said the memo also dealt with religious minorities and persecution facing them, media campaigns distorting the image of Islam and misrepresenting the question of Jerusalem in a way ignoring its importance for Muslim and Christian Arabs. The delegation members urged the Pope to use his power to protect Jerusalem and the rights of its Muslim and Christian residents. The delegation also met with the Vatican's foreign minister and exchanged with him views on various issues and the role of the Vatican in supporting Humanitarian causes. and the role of the Vatican in supporting Humanitarian causes.

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King, Saleh review Arab relations

·AMMAN (J.T.) - His Majesty King Hussein tele-phoned Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Saturday and discussed with him bilateral relations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The King and Mr. Saleh stressed the need to end disputes among Arab countries and to unify the ranks of the -Arah Nation to enable it to counter challenges facing it, the agency said.

Palestinians, Saudis agree on pilgrims

JERUSALEM (R) -Palestinian and Saudi officials have agreed to double the number of Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank who may make the pilgrimage to Mecca each year, a Palestinian official said on Saturday. "The Saudi -authorities accepted our request to allow 15,000 Palestinian pilgrims to visit Mecca this year," said Nabil Shaath. This year's pilgrimage will be in early May, Hassan Tahhonh, the Palestinian official in charge of religious affairs, recently visited Saudi Arabia to discuss the matter. Dr. Shaath said the Saudis would offer logistical facili-ties to the Palestinan pil-grims and Egypt would allow them to use the El-Arish

Communists win Uzbek elections

TASHKENT (AFP) -Uzbekistan's communists won a crushing overall victory in the second round of general elections and will hold at least 231 of the new parliament's 250 seats, the daily People's Word said Saturday. The state-controlled daily said 243 seats have been allocated following the Dec. 25 and Jan. 8 elections. The remaining seven seats will be decided in a delayed poli on Jan. 22, because voter turnout fell short of the minimum 50 per cent in these constituencies. The electoral commission said 88.3 per cent of eligible voters took part in the second round against 93.6 per cent in the first round. The new parliament, or Oh Majlis, will comprise 250 deputies, half as many as the old Supreme Soviet. The communist Popular Democratic Party (PPD), with its 23I seats, will face only token opposition from the Party of National Prog-ress (PNP) which won 12

Syria builds first quake centre

DAMASCUS (R) — Svria. located in an active earthquake area, on Saturday spened its first earthquake nonitoring centre. The \$1.8 million project will provide data on seismic activities through 20 ground stations spread around Syria. The oject is financed by the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economie and Social Development. Seven of the ground stations have already been built and the rest will be completed by the end of this year, officials said. The centre's chief, Hassan Ahn Roumieh, told Reuters the facility, which began test opcrations in December, recorded a major earthquake in northeast Syria measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale on Dec. 18. No damages or injuries

killed in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) - Turkish

S. Arabia said massing troops on Yemen border

SANAA (Agencies) — Saudi and Mahara province to the Arabia has massed forces west." near the border with Yemen. including warplanes and missile launchers, Arah diplomats here said Saturday.

Meanwhile, a high-level Syrian delegation visiting Riyadh tried to mediate between the two neighbours whose forces have clashed on the disputed border several times since the May-July 1994 Yemeni civil war.

The Sandi military buildup, started earlier in the week, was focussed on the Saada and Mahara provinces on Yemen's northern border, said the diplomats, quoted by the French news agency

In Riyadh, Arah diplomats also said the situation on the border was "very tense" Saturday.

They said a Syrian delegation led by Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam, which travelled to the Saudi kingdom after visiting Sanaa, was mediating 'to defuse the

One diplomat, who asked not to be named, said Saudi Arabia "is still sending troops, heavy weapons, in-cluding missile launchers and F-16 warplanes, close to Al Buq region in Saada province

GROZNY (Agencies) — Chechen fighters doggedly held on to the presidential

palace here late Saturday in the face of a fierce assault by

NTV quoted its Grozny cor-

respondent as saying the

compound of the palace, symbol of the Chechens'

drive for independence, had

itself at one stage been the

scene of clashes with Russian

soldiers fighting Chechen de-

fenders inside the huilding.

sian forces had tried to sur-

round the parliament build-

aged to take the building

backed by armoured vehi-

cles, but we retook control

and we currently hold 25

Russian prisoners in the base-

ment," said Hamzat Gaur-

gashvili, commander of a

battalion of special Chechen

He said clashes around the

palace had largely tailed off Saturday evening but were continuing elsewhere, not-ably around the central mar-

ket square and the Cosmos

cinema, some 300 metres

The commander added

Three Russian deputies

that the Russians still held no

from the reformist Democra-

tic Choice party meanwhile denounced the Chechenya in-

tervention as a "war crime

without precedent," and de-

key huilding in Grozny.

forces.

The Russians briefly man-

ing opposite the palace.

Chechen fighters said Rus-

Russian television station

Russian forces.

The sources did not give details of Yemen's military forces in the area. Sanaa has deployed several units on the border in recent

months as part of an army reorganisation. Mr. Khaddam, accompanied by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, discussed the situation in the region Saturday with Sandi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Bin

Abdul Aziz. The Syrian officials Friday handed King Fahd a message from President Hafez Al

Earlier they gave Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh a similar message, which dealt with efforts to improve Arab relations and "restore solidarity," the official Yemeni news agency SABA

Mr. Saleh spoke to King Hussein and Egyptian Presi-dent Hosni Mubarak hy telephone Saturday, SABA reported.

They discussed Arah relations, the Middle East peace process, and "efforts made to achieve inter-Arah reconciliation and greater Arah solidarity.

Officials from both coun-

Chechens hold onto palace

manded that those responsi-

hie be "severely punished,"

weak to oppose the military,"

returning from the region.

Mikhail Molostvov said on

Russian President Boris

Yeltsin has made a tragic

mistake in the conflict with

Chechenya and is paying a

hefty price, U.S. Secretary of

State Warren Christopher

very considerably in world opinion. I believe that what

they've done has set back

their progress toward demo-cracy," Mr. Christopher said

in a CNN television inter-

Mr. Christopher is travell-

ing to Geneva on Monday for

a meeting with Russian Fore-

ign Minister Andrei Kozyrev

and the crisis in Chechenya

He said he would tell his

Russian counterpart that the

"indiscriminate killing of

women and children, the ex-

cessive use of force are all

things that are of great con-

cern to the world commun-

Mr. Christopher said he had spoken with Mr. Kozyrev

by telephone earlier in the

week and that he admitted

that the violence in

Chechenya was "an awful

situation, a tragic situation -

and he indicated he was look-

mnt Kohl has told President

German Chancellor Hel-

ing for a way out."

will top the agenda.

"I think they're suffering

"Russian democracy is too

in face of Russian assault

Interfax reported.

tries said Friday a high-level Yemeni delegation would go ahead with a visit to Saudi Arabia called off earlier in the week after a clash on the

They said the visit, originally set for Wednesday, would instead take place Saturday.

Yemen's Parliamentary Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar was to lead the delegation, which would in-clude Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani and Planning Minister Ahdnl Kader

Bajamal.
The delegation is to meet King Fahd with the goal of paving the way for a trip to the kingdom by Mr. Saleh, according to officials in

But the plans were dis-rupted by the border incident on Tuesday.

The president and King Fahd discussed steps taken to contain the incident during a telephone conversation later the same day, according to SABA.

Officials in Sanaa said Saudi-armed Yemeni tribesmen occupied a border post in the northeast of the country and hoisted the Saudi

(Continued on page 7)

Russia's difficulties in restor-

ing Moscow's rule in

Chechenya during a sym-

pathetic phone call, the Kremlin said.

his understanding of the

situation's difficulties." Mr.

Yeltsin's spokesman

NTV television of misrepre-

senting Friday's telephone

conversation by saying Mr. Kohl had criticised Mr. Yelt-

sin's handling of the Chechen

with reality," Mr. Kostikov

Confirming this view of events, the German weekly

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Sonntagszeitung said that in

an interiew to be published Sunday that Mr. Kohl gave

Mr. Yeltsin his full support.

has been more outspoken in

its condemnation of the

bloodshed in Chechenya over

the last few days after having

little to say in the opening

days of the conflict late last

Cleveland, Ohio.

The U.S. administration

said

"This does not correspond

Mr. Kostikov accused

Vyacheslav Kostikov said.

The chancellor declared

King, Mubarak discuss relations

Egyptian President Hosni Muharak on Saturday exchanged views on hilateral relations and issues to be discussed at an expected meeting hetween the two leaders on Feh. 1.

in a telephone conversation, King Hussein and Mr. Muharak stressed the need to overcome disputes among Arah countries and to take unified stands on issues facing the Arah Nation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra,

Mr. Muharak is expected to visit Jordan on Feh. 1, his first trip to the Kingdom since ties were strained during the 1990 Gulf crisis, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Friday.

The trip was agreed a day earlier in talks between Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Kabariti. King Hussein has visited Cairo twice since the crisis.

Jordan and Egypt also agreed on Saturday to hold a meeting of the joint-Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee in the first half of

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and his Egyptian counterpart Atef Sedki agreed to convene the meet-

AMMAN (J.T.) — His ing in a telephone contact Majesty King Hussein and made by Mr. Sedki to congratulate Sharif Zeid on assuming his post as prime minister.

The two discussed Jordanian-Egyptian relations and means of enhancing them, Petra said.

Congratulations

Sharif Zeid also received two cables from the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifah Ben Hamad Al Thani, and Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifah Al Thani congratulating him on forming s new government,

The Qatari emir and crown prince wished Sharif Zeid luck in carrying out his duties. They also wished the

Jordanian people further progress and prosperity under the leadership of King Sharif Zeid also received a

eable from Bangladeshi

Prime Minister Khalida Zia congratulating him on forming his new government. Ms. Zia wished Sharif Zeid good ple further progress and prosperity under the leadership of King Hussein.

Jerusalem should not be a cause for disunity—Kabariti

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti said Saturday that Jerusalem should not be a cause of controversy and disunity among Arah and Isla-mic countries. Such con-troversy and distinity would give Israel the pretext to interfere in the affairs of Islamie holy sites in Jerusalem and lead to incidents similar to what happened in the Ibrahimi Mosque last year, Mr. Kabariti said.

In a statement on the eve of his departure for Morocco leading the Jordanian deleganon to the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) due to open on Monday, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan would not relinquish the custodianship of the Islamie holy sites in Jerusalem to any non-Arah or non-Islamic

He said the issue of Jordan's custodianship of Islamie sites in the Holy City was not listed on the agenda of the committee's meetings, hut might be discussed as an emergency issue, The Jordanian govern-

ment, he said, has held contacts with all the parties concerned with the Jerusalem question.

"I contacted the Palestinian brethren during my visit to Egypt and the contacts continued till last night. It was agreed in principle that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will visit Jordan on Jan. 25, but a definite date was not set for the visit," said Mr. Kabariti, adding that such a meeting should be preceded by meetings of the ministerial-level Jordaniantees on Jan. 23 and 24.

Before his departure, Mr. Kabariti hriefed the cabinet on the outcome of his visit to Egypt on Thursday and his talks with Egyptian President Hosni Muharak and senior Egyptian officials

The foreign minister, who has described the outcome of his visit as extremely successful, announced that His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Muharak will meet in Amman on Feh. 1.

He said his Cairo talks produced agreement on a joint position vis-a-vis the question of Jerusalem and Jordan's role in maintaining the holy shrines in the occupied city.

The cahinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, named the delegation accompanying Mr. Kabariti to the two-day OIC meeting. The delegation will include several amhassadors and officials.

The Council of Ministers. which was briefed by Sharif Zeid on the outcome of the talks held by King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rahin on Thursday, discussed several domestic

Earlier Saturday, the director of the Foreign Ministry's. information department, Ahmad Mbeideen, said Jordan supports any Arah or Islamic position aimed at safeguarding the Arab-Islamic custodianship of the Islamic holy places in Jeru-

"Jordan's position vis-a-vis the status of Jerusalem does not contradict with wher Arab concepts with regain to Palestinian politi. al sovereignty over Arah Jerusalem," Mr. Mbeideen said.

"Jordan does not wish to have any differences with any other Arah or Islamic party

(Continued on page 7)

PNA demands settlement freeze

Said.

ity in self-rule Gaza on Saturday called for an immediate halt to the expansion of Jewish settlements in Gaza and the West Bank, authority

members said. Ahmad Qouries, in charge of economics in the authority, said settlements were the top priority at the weekly

This activity was at the top of our agenda today. It is illegal, it is an obstacle, it should be frozen completely. There should be no settlement activities until we reach the final status."

President Bill Clinton Fri-The agreement allowed day issued the strongest some 4,000 settlers in Gaza objections to date concerning and over 120,000 in the West Chechenya when he spoke in Bank to remain in place under Israeli protection While repeating his stance

The issue was to be left for that is part of the Russian a later stage of negotiations Federation and that he suphut recent attempts to exported the territorial integrity pand the settlements have angered Palesonians who (Continued on page 7)

GAZA (Agencies) — The have demanded the eon-Palestinian National Author-troversial matter be addrestroversial matter be addressed immediately.

Nahil Shaath, a senior authority member, said that at the final stage of the peace agreement all Israeli settlements should be removed from the Gaza Strip. A leading member of the

Hamas group on Saturday, called on Palestinians to resist Jewish settlement in Gaza and the West Bank by sabotage as well as armed struggle. Mahmoud Al Zahhar told

a seminar at Gaza's Islamic University to close roads leading to settlements, cut electricity lines, ban Palestinian labourers from working in settlements and demonstrate at the entrances of settlements daily.

Former Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Sahfi, an independent, speaking at the Gaza gathering, accused Israel of supporting the settlement activity.

"The Israeli government is supporting settlers' efforts to establish a Jewish state in the whole land of Palestine," he

Hamas bitterly opposes the PLO-Israel deal and supports armed attacks on Israeli targets. Dr. Shaath rejected Dr. Zahhar's call for sabotage, telling reporters: "We have committed ourselves to peaceful methods of facing all our problems."

Also on Saturday, armed Jewish settlers clashed with Palestinians in the West Bank town of Hebron, Palestinians and the Israeli army said.

Both sources said the settlers, led by Rabbi Moshe Levinger, provoked the clash by throwing stones at Palestimans in the town centre. An army spokeswoman said soldiers fired shots to disperse

Palestinians said one man was wounded by a rubber bullet and three by stones. report of casualties. Near Hebron, Palestinians

threw stones at hulldozers paving a road for a Jewish settlement. At the West Bank village of Deir Qaddis, Palestinian farmers planted olive trees in a symbolic claim to a piece of land near the neighbouring Jewish settlement of Matityahu.

Israeli settlers on the West Bank said Saturday they now number more than 140,000. an increase of five per cent since the September 1993 autonomy deal with the Palestinians.

Israel Radio said the settiers used local tax returns 10 establish they number 141,000 people.

The settiers had previously kept silent on the five per cent increase since the autonomy deal so as to prevent the government from halting col-Onisation as part of measures to advance the peace process.

Palestinian Movement for Democracy takes shape

By Lamis K. Andoni Special to the Jordan Times

A GROUP of Palestinians, led by Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, is seeking to form a new movement that would. help lead the Palestinian people out of the current. political crisis which is largely the result of disilhasionment with the limited self-rule agreement signed

on Sept. 13,1993. The new movement does not present itself as an alternative to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Rather it seeks to reunify Palestinian ranks around such crucial issues as rejection of any solution short of an independent Palestinian state and democratic Palestinian instituA draft proposal pre-sented by Dr. Abdul Shafi, the former head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, refers to a broad-based popular movement that aims at attaining peace on the basis of a two-state solution -Israel and a Palestinian state - and the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes.

The proposal, which is being debated by Palestinians in the Israelioccupied territories and the diaspora, calls for the formation of a "movement for building democracy in the Palestinian community." It contains no reference at all to the Oslo self-rule agreements, but considers the Palestinian initiative of 1988 that called

for a two-state solution as the basis for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem. According to Palestinian

sources, membership in the new Movement for Democracy is open to individuals from all political trends and is not based on a coalition among the existing Palestinian factions. Advocates of the new

movement present it as the third alternative, the first being to the political line represented by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the second by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement. But undermining Hamas is not one of the move-

ment's aims, and members

of Hamas and the Palesti-

nian Authority can in prin-

ciple join the movement if

Haidar Abdul Shafi they accept and adhere to its declared objectives. "Many Palestinians do oot support the PNA although they are either secular or believe in a negotiated settlement with Israel based on the implementation of United Nations resolutions," explained one Palestinian source.

Dr. Abdul Shafi decided to iningte the movement after contacts he made with many Palestinian personalities and groups during a visit to Amman last month.

The widely respected leader then formulated a three-page draft proposal that was sent out to many Palestinians in the occupied territories and abroad on

A reading of the draft proposal indicates that it is still a very general broadline document that does

the PNA and the Oslo agreement. It also fails short of outlining a strategy or plan of action for the Palestinians to pursue from now on.

During his short visit to Amman, Dr. Abdul Shafi told the Jordan Times he believed that specific goals and a strategy could only be formulated after wide consultations. He said that his contacts

and discussions had revealed wide differences on the shape and the goals of the movement. While some are seeking a clear-cut opposition that calls for the removal of the self-rule authority, others are seeking a democratic mass movement whose goals develop gradually.

Dr. Abdul Shafi does not exclude any option regarding the direction that the movement could take. Thus it could prove to be an alternative to the current leadership, represented by the Palestinian Authority, or it could represent a broad-based opposition movement.

The draft formulated hy

The call for a new movement was a direct result of the lack of progress on negotiations to implement the second phase of the self-rule agreement involving a redeployment of Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank and Palestinian elections.

Palestinian anger over the expansion of Israeli set-

(Continued on page 7)

Delegation from U.N. Gulf crisis compensation committee arrives

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation representing a U.N. committee handling compensation applications from direct and indirect victims of the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait arrives here today (Sunday) to discuss the status of claims from Jordanians to the panel.

The delegation, headed by Michael Rahoin, assistant secretary-general of the commission visits Jordan in response to an invitation by the government of Jordan and will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials and others dealing with the applications for compensation.

The main problem imped-

ing the completion of the committee's work is the lack of funds. The committee's work is limited to evaluating applications and forwarding its findings and recommenda tions to a governing council. which has the final say in approving and releasing payments from a special U.N. fund set up after the Gulf

Figures have varied be-tween \$28 million and \$40 million as the amount available to the fund after several governments transferred part or full value of Iraqi funds held with them as called for by the U.N. Security Coun-

Thirty per cent of proceeds from all Iraqi oil exports will be transferred to the fund as and when Iraq resumes its oil sales after the international sanctions on that country are lifted/eased. The total amount of com-

pensation sought by individuals, companies and gov-

WASHINGTON (USIA) -

A Palestinian participant ex-

pressed his delegation's satis-

faction on Tuesday with the

results of the just-concluded

talks here on establishing a

Middle East Development

Bank, one of the noteworthy

recommendations of the Mid-

dle East/North Africa Econo-

mic Summit held in Casab-

Hassan Abdul Rahman,

chief representative for the

Palestine Liberation Orga-

nisation (PLO) in Washing-

ton and a member of the

tion to the talks, said the proposed bank "will facilitate

in the future the financing of

national and regional infras-

tructures and thereby firmly

establish the (Mideast) peace

Mr. Abdul Rahman spoke

as delegates from the 39 par-

ticipating countries and inter-

national organisations were

heading home after agreeing

on the formation of a task

force to come up with "de-

tailed proposals" for the

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf De-

nktash said on Friday he was

anticipating talks with Presi-

dent Bill Clinton's special

emissary, expected to visit

the divided island this month.

time gave a warning of a

Greek-Turkey war if Greek

Cypriots went into the Euro-

pean Union (EU) before a resolution of the problem

that has divided Cyprus since

If Greek Cypriots inte-

grated with the EU Turkish

Cypriots would do the same

with Turkey, Mr. Denktash

told Reuters.

Mr. Denktash at the same

proposed bank.

process."

lanca last October.

ernments which suffered direct or indirect losses as a result of the invasion of Kuwait and the ensuing crisis runs to tens of billions of

Yahya Utaibi, secretarygeneral of the Amman-based Returness Compensation Committee which bandles Jordanian applications to the fund, said 110,000 claims were filed by Jordanians under the various categories as stipulated by the Genevabased committee on the basis of death and injuries, personal losses, loss of property. loss of contracts etc.

The minimum amount of compensation payable to an approved claim is \$2,500. The compensation commit-tee paid \$982,000 in mid-1994

to 241 Jordanian applicants whose claims were hased on death and injuries under category "B. According to a copy of the

recommendations and decisions of the committee made available to the Jordan Times, the panel studied 503 claims from Jordan in the first phase of its considerations. The committee said 232 of the claims were not eligible for payments, transferred six to other categories and classified 24 elaims as miscellaneous claims."

Two hundred and eighteen Jordanian claims studied were related to death and 285 to serious personal injury. Category "B" applications filed from Jordan totalled nearly 700, but officials say that some of them did not

qualify to be in that category. In its mid-1994 recommendations and decisions, the committee studied a total of 1,119 claims and recom-

The task force will be con-

sidering such matters as the

bank's "mandate, mem-

bership, eligibility for bor-

rowing, relationship to other

institutions, operational func-

tions, capital requirements,

governance, and interim

arrangement," according to a

three-page statement spelling

out the "summary conclu-sions" presented by U.S.

Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Joan E.

Spero, who co-chaired the

two-day meeting at the State

Israel and Jordan in produc-

ing "a paper outlining their

vision" of the bank and "a

number of regional and non-

regional delegations" sup-

ported the proposal, the

briefing: "I am not pretending to say that there has been

Ms. Spero explained at the

decision to sign on the

dotted line for a bank. But I

would say that the difference

of opinion narrowed quite

This was in reference to

Denktash to give his view on peace to

Department here.
The PLO joine

statement said.

significantly.

mended \$2.747.500 in pay-

The highest number of successful claimants were from Kuwait (303), and they were paid \$1,397,500. Jordan came second (241 claims -\$982,000), followed by the United Kingdom (39 claims - \$107,500), Sri Lanka (34 claims - \$110,000), France (21 claims - \$52,500), the U.S. (11 claims — \$35,000).

Pakistan (seven claims -\$22,500), Poland and Thailand (four claims each: \$10,000). China (two claims -\$5,000), and Australia, the Slovak Republic, Iran. Kenya, Mauritius and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (one claim each —

Mr. Utaibi said Saturday it was not known when the commission would study the rest of the cases and when claimants could expect payment or a ruling on their applications.

We are closely following up with the committee, and we are sure that all claims will be studied and payments will be made at some point." said Mr. Utaibi, "But we don't know when the work would be finished and when the governing council would make a decision. The Security Council re-

solution ordering compensation for Gulf crisis victims "is not negotiable," and, as such, the claims will have to be settled sooner or later, he

According to Mr. Utaibi. the very fact that the Jordanian government had invited the delegation arriving here today was a strong indication of Jordan's determination to press the case of its

some Arab, reportedly Saudi

Arabian, reluctance to en-

dorse the bank outright.

although Spero emphasised

that "all parties were open to

She went on to cite two

."One is, and I think most

reasons for this turnaround:

overwhelmingly important.

the statement and the posi-

tion of the four countries

(PLO, Israel, Egypt and Jor-

dan). Not only did they pre-

sent a common paper, not

only did they present a com-

mon view, but they forcefully

and jointly negotiated - to

the extent there was a nego-

tiation - their position. They

argued very strongly to say,

You told us to get together.

You told us to develop as an

economic region. You told us

you wanted these things.

Now we are coming to you

and telling you what our

proposal is, and we ask you

added, is that several of the

participants in the Casablan-

ca conference have examined

The second reason, she

to respond."

consideration of a bank."

Palestinians satisfied with talks on Mideast bank

Egypt's militants makecomeback in New Year

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Mus-lim militants, hit hard last year by arrests and execunons, have made a vigorous revival in the New Year, belying the government's repeated boast that it has broken the back of the movement.

Mr. Uteibi told Reuters

the team will hold talks with

top government officials on

technical aspects related to

Jordan's total claims of \$8

billion submitted before a

U.N. deadline for submission

of individual and governmen-

tal applications at the end of

Over \$4 billion of Jordan's

\$8 billion compensation

claims are filed by individuals

for personal losses and Jorda-

nians who owned enterprises in Kuwait, he said.

claims an estimated \$4 billion

in national losses from the

influx of its citizens who

strained its economy and in-

to seek compensation from

the U.N. for the losses it

incurred as a result of higher

freight costs and shipping

charges brought about by the

four year enforcement of the

international sanctions

against Iraq by U.S.-led warships in the Red Sea. The

Kingdom is also expected to

demand compensation for

fees it is paying to the Lloyd's

Register, which maintains a

oresence at Agaba to observe

al! incoming and outgoing

talks with the ministers of

interior, foreign affairs and

labour. The minister of

labour is also president of the

Returnee Compensation

technical in nature, and a

local report said the commit-

tee in Geneva was having

some problems with compu-

ter diskettes provided by the

Jordanian panel containing

the details of applicants and

"the sort of options and the

needs" after their meeting in

Morocco and many con-

cluded that "if what you want

is new funding that "if what

you want is new funding

capacity, promotion of re-

gional development, the ex-

isting mechanisms don't get

The task force will be

meeting monthly, beginning

March 8 in Washington, to

come up with the proposals

for endorsement by the

second economic summit

conference scheduled to be

Another complementary

proposa! to be looked into by

the task force is "a forum for

regional cooperation" which

came primarily from some

European countries although. Ms. Spero added.

they "remain very open to

examination and considera-

Nevertheless, she con-

tinued, the bank remains "a

very strong option" because

the idea emanates from the

U.S. envoy

tion of a bank."

held in Jordan in October.

The discussions would be

Committee.

The delegation will hold

Jordan was also expected

frastructure.

The Jordanian government

Gunmen thought to be militants struck another blow at the tourist industry on Thursday evening when they opened fire on a train from the southern resort town of Luxor, wounding two Argentine tourists and four Egyp-tians. It was the first attack on a tourist train since March last year.

And on Jan. 2, in four operations which showed unusual bravado and coordination, militants disguised as police dragged policemen off buses and summarily executed them in public.

The militant Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group). the main organisation trying to overthrow the government, ended three months of silence to claim responsibility for the killings. A Gamaa statement res-

tated its aims as "confronting the regime... and defending religion and liberties until our people in Egypt enjoy the freedom they want under

In the first 12 days of the year, 29 people have been killed in political violence, compared with an average of about for a week since the Gamaa began attacking in March 1992, A new element is the fre-

quency with which the militants kill civilians they suspect are police informers at least three of these have been gunned down in the past The conflict has now

valley between Minya province to the north and Gena province to the sonth - a stretch of about 350 kilometres. An outpost near Cairo came to light 2 Jan. 8 when

spread along most of the Nile

pected militants in a satellite But the undisputed centre is the area around the town of Mallawi, where a permanent might curfew is in force and

people think twice before

stepping abroad even in

broad daylight.

police shot dead five sus-

Heavily armed police units go out on search-and-destroy missions through the sugarcane fields where the militants hide and rarely take prisoners if the militants open fire at them.

The militants train in the desert beyond the narrow strip of irrigated land, ambush and kill sole policemen, steal their weapons and usually escape back to their hideouts.

Most embassies advise their citizens to confine their visits to southern Egypt to the town of Luxor and Aswan, so far immune from the sporadic attacks on tour-

Official statistics suggest that the decline in the tourist industry bas now levelled off and there is anecdotal evi-dence that violence at the current level has lost its novelty value and some of its effect as a deterrent to tour-

In the first 11 months of last year 2.381 million people visited Egypt, compared with 2.335 million in the same period of the previous year. But tourist revenue in the first 10 months fell to \$1.213 billion, from \$1.229 billion between January and Oct. 1993, the prime minister's office said.

The revenue is at least \$1 billion less than the country could earn from tourism if it was at peace, economists say. The government continues

to reject any political solution to end what it calls terrorism but in recent months it has pnt less emphasis on alleged foreign aid for the Gamaa and more on the domestic roots of the thinking behind violent fundamentalism. "The terrorists have their

roots at the bottom of society," Education Minister Hussein Bahaeddin, a vigorous campaigner, told a seminar of intellectuals in December. "We bave managed to

check the spread of terrorism and throw off the cloak of Islam beneath which they (the militants) have tried to hide... but we are chipping at the tip of the iceberg, most of which is hidden under the water," he added. Muslim fundamentalists,

some of them sympathetic to acts of violence, are widespread in Egypt society. They include many teachers. lawyers, doctors and other influential professionals.

The government's response, often echoed by pillars of the clerical establishment, has been to try to project a different vision of what it says is true Islam flexible, tolerant, progressive and cosmopolitan. But it is one man's word

against another and does not wash among the angry young men who see Islam as a radical panacea for ills such as corruption, hypocrisy, poverty and slights to national and The government has also

failed to strike up an effective alliance with natural friends such as liberals, leftists and democrats, many of whom say the authorities have made too many concessions to the hardline Islamic establisb-

5 killed

Crack security forces sbot during a raid on their hideout in the troubled Minya region of sonthern Egypt Saturday while another group of militants killed a police officer, authorities said. Special Interior Ministry

police first surrounded a Copric Christian cemetery in Bani Mazar, around 180 kilometres south of Cairo. where militants of Gamaa were hiding. Four militants fled and

police gave chase, killing three of them in a gunbattle in the streets. A 65-year-old man was also shot and wounded in the clash. The fourth militant was

shot dead later in another part of the town, police said. Nine bombs and three pistols were found, along with documents linking the militants to the Gamaa.

One of the dead was identified as a 22-year-old student from the University of Minva. Islamic militants mean-

while shot dead a 45-year-old policeman, Farghali Mehanni Mehran, in front of his family in the village of Qalba near the militant stronghold of Mallawi, 300 kilometres

NEWS IN BRIEF

Western Sahara vote set for October

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. Security Council said Friday that it would no longer delay a Western Sahara vote on self-determination and would hold it in October with a transition period beginning on June 1. The referendum has been delayed several times because of difficulties in identifying eligible voters in the Western Sahara, where Morocco and the Polisario Front have been battling for control of the territory. The area was a Spanish colony until 1975. Western diplomats have said that the Western Sahara issue could move forward this year since it is in the interests of both sides to hold the referendum. If Polisario loses, 8 statute granting autonomy could still be negotiated later. they said. The 15-member council also voted to extend until May 31 the mandate of the 334-member mission in the Western Sahara. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has recommended that 105 police and at least 51 officials be added to the mission. Observers from the Organisation of African Unity are expected to help the process of identifying eligible voters.

Lebanese police seize Liberal books BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese police have confiscated three books by the late liberal Islamist writer Al Sadeq Al

Naheyoum because Muslim authorities considered them harmful to Islam, a police spokeswoman said on Saturday, of Lebanon's Sunni Muslim mufti Mohammad Rashid nad constructio religious groups to order confiscation of books they consider offensive to their beliefs. The three books, which MAN (Petra) - In rehave been on sale throughout the Arab World for several part (abinet direction) wears, are "Voice of the People, Drama of a falsified Works with the Arab World for several part of Public Works with the People of Culture," "Islam imprisoned" and "Islam Against Islam, Horsing will the month which broke sales records last month at an annual Arab Boaing tenders for the book fair at the Information Ministry in Beirut. Mr. mixtion and regain of Naheyoum's writings call for reconsideration of traditional made in the con-Naheyoum's writings call for reconsideration of traditional religious makes in the light of modern intellectual developments and adapting Islam to the needs of the 21st century, amonths ahead of the Mr. Naheyoum, who was of Lihyan origin, died two months ago in Geneva. His publishers said his books have never previously been confiscated in the Arab World and are currently on sale at the Cairo international book fair, and frector of the area currently on sale at the Cairo international book fair.

RABAT (R) - One of Morocco's best known entertainers say has a budget alloca-

said on Friday the authorities have banned him from 30 JD 63,905 million for showing his satirical plays in the country without giving and during 1995; treasury reason. "The authorities bave decided to ban my pieces in bind ID 42 million and all the cities of the kingdom and withhold permission for test will be funded the staging of my plays." Abmad Senousi, who is known as my loans.

Bziz, told Reuters. The popular actor recently said the life total budget item, authorities had banned the showing of his play "The Visi 3 million has been alloand the Suiterees" in the terms of Fernand the Suiterees. and the Suitcase" in the towns of Fez and Marrakesh. He disragicultural toads in says the play has now been banned in Casabianca. The play put regions, added Mr. mocked the government's human rights record and contribut. of the arts and media. Mr. Senousi is also a human rights ming 1995, the ministry activist. "By banning my plays, they are depriving the sam several projects in Moroccan people of the right to laughter and enjoyment line the construction of think this is very serious because it means we no longer thiometre Ras Nagabbave the right to be satrical in this country." Mr. Senois in Road which is an activity to be satrical in this country. said. An official at the Ministry of Human Rights said the milion. were aware of the ban on Mr. Senousi. "We are examining 30-kilometre K2:2K the case but unfortunately it is up to the regional police meh Road which will authorities to decide on such matters," the official said ID 26 million, the 14.5. Mr. Senoussi has been banned from appearing on Moret arm road linking Madacan television for years. Iran cleric says satellite ban certain Hometre North Shune:

TEHRAN (R) - A member of a powerful Islamic clerical

council that reviews laws passed by Iran's parliament salang 1995. Mr. Ensour on Friday the council had backed a parliament back the ministry will also outlawing satellite dishes, leaving only a funding hitch to be the 31.5-kilometre solved. "Parliament took the justified step to ban the used Good Haditha Road in solved. "Parnament took the Justined step to the land the land valley which is satellites, and the Guardian Council has approved the land valley which is there are just some financial problems concerning had to cost JD 20 milapplication to solve," said leading cleric Ayatollah Mohami the eight kilometre mad Emami Kasbani during a Friday prayers semont with Shuneh Road at broadcast on Tehran Radio. The Guardian Council will imition and the 30jected to two articles of the bill passed by Iran's parliament and the 30-last week outlawing satellite television equipment because and all about JD 4.5 of the extra costs they would entail for the government work on these roads Iran's IRNA news agency said on Wednesday. The in previous years, he Guardian Council often asks parliament to change bills and provide the needed budget for their application. Satellist dish owners will have one month to turn in their equip ment, after the bill receives final approval from Guardian Council or face fines of up to three million risk (\$1000 at the open market exchange rate). Israel Military Industries head quits

TEL AVIV (R) - Israel Military Industries (IMI)

Director-General Gadi Komissar has resigned from in post after four years over differences with the board of directors on restructuring IMI, his spokesman said of directors on restructuring IMI, his spokesman saw By Cathy King Friday. Israel Radio said Mr. Komissar was opposed to Cathy King Friday. Israel Radio said Mr. Komissar was opposed in the latery King restructuring IMI, converted from an arm of the Defended to the Jordan Times Ministry into a state company in 1990, into a holding company with subsidiaries. The directors want subsidiaries. A weekly later than the later company with subsidiaries. The directors want subsidiaries. A weekly sidiaries. He wanted divisions. That was not accepted, at newspaper, Al Furtion came on Friday evening, and government officially the only newspaper Mr. Komissar warned restructuring plans now afoot would interment will soon spokesman declined to elaborate further on the resignation. He said a formal statement would be issued of the only newspaper will soon spokesman declined to elaborate further on the resignation. He said a formal statement would be issued of the only newspaper will soon spokesman declined to elaborate further on the resignation. He said a formal statement would be issued of the only newspaper to the contribute to and could damage IMI. Mr. Komissar will soon spokesman declined to elaborate further on the resignation. He said a formal statement would be issued of the only newspaper to women's tion. He said a formal statement would be issued of the only newspaper state. The women's tion. He said a formal statement would be issued of the only newspaper to women's tion. He said a formal statement would be issued of the only newspaper to women's tion. He said a formal statement would be issued of the only newspaper to women's tion. He said a formal statement would be issued of the only newspaper and the only newspaper will soon spokesman declined to elaborate further on the resignation to host classified not contribute to and could amage IMI. Mr. Komissar to women's tion. He said a formal statement would be issued of the only newspaper. All Further on the only newspaper will be only newspaper. All Further on the only newspaper will be only newspaper. All Further on the only newspaper. All Further on the only newspaper. All Further on the only newspaper will be only newspaper. All Further on the only newspaper. All Further o

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EXHIBITIONS entitled "Phase II- Door

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO 17:00 Coccetes Minutes 17:30 Que Le Mieffuer Gagne 18:00 Montagne 18:30 Le Monde Fantastique Des Entants News (n French 19:15 Galacus
19:15 The Album Show
20:15 The Album Show
The Nannr
Staarthe; ... Heartbeat Feature film: "Turner and Hooch" 23:59 The Hidden Room

Fajr (Sunrise) Duha 14:33 'Asr 16:57 Maghreb

PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifiels, Tel. 810740 Assembles of God Church

Turkey as a matter of honour and obligation... into an armed conflict which may eventually bring the involvement of Greece, hence a Greco-Turkish war." New York attorney

Richard Beattie is expected in Cyprus on Jan. 22 as Mr. Clinton's special envoy.
"I myself welcome the arrival of President Clinton's

special emissary who is projected as one of the best legal brains in the United States, said. Mr. Denktash. "If Mr. Beattie is coming

St. Joseph Church Tcl. 624590. Church of the Americation Tel. 637440.

De la Saile Church Tel. 661757

Terramenta Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Assessiation Tel.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amount International Church Tel. 652526.

55226. Evangelical Latheran Church Tel: 824528, German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 684195 The Latter-Day Salars Tel: 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel:675691. The Evangelical Local Church in Ammao

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology.

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may attack us. This will drag

"The encouraged Greek side... will react violently and

Cypriots.
"So far American involve-

with an open heart and open mind ... I hope he will report to the president that 31 years have been misued by this great power (USA) and great injustice and discrimination has been done to Turkish

> ment, because of the Greek lobby and the noise it makes in the USA has encouraged Greek Cypriots to incransi-gence and has not been help-ful," Mr. Denktash said.

> Mr. Denktash leads a breakaway republic in the north, declared unilaterally in 1983 and recognised by Ankara alone.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops invaded toe north in reaction to a coun in Nicosia by advocates of union with

Turkish Cypriots date the problem to 1963 when a joint republic formed in 1960 under Turkish. Greek and British guarantees collapsed in jatercommunal violence.

The veteran politician who has declared he would not run for a third five-year term when his tenure at the presidency runs out in April, said he would take his final decision by the end of this month.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Aqaba 25 Humidity readings: Amman 59 per cent. Aqaba 47 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Fakhri Tavch	4032.0
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Dr. Salman Al Oaboubi	675
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Dr. Ahraad Qanu	. (
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Rescue Police 192, 621111, 63777
Fire Brigade 61700

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Water Authority Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

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ZARQA: Zarqa Govi. Hospital (19/983323 ton Sina Hospital (09)900560 ton Sina Hospital (09)986732 Al Hitma Modern Hospital (09)99099) IRBD: Princes Basma Hospital 102 (275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Do Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100 AQABA: cess Haya Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA**

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Terminal 1)

07:45 Agaba (RJ) 68:35 Jeddah (RJ) Larnaca (RJ) 69-55 Dubai, Abu Ohabi (R. 10:15 Deha, Bahram (RJ)

----- Rome (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2) Manama (GF 14:25 . 20:05 . Moscow (SU)
Cairo (MS) Beirul (ME)

81:10 .

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:15 ... Frankfurt (RJ)
10:55 ... Vienna (RT) tt:00 It. 11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:36 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 1 (1.50 20:00 20:30 20:45 20:45 .. Athens (RJ Dhahran (RJ New Delhi (R

MARKET PRICES Cucumbers (large) Cucumbers (small) Grape Fruit

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Marrow (large) . Marrow (small) Onion (green)

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Moroccan satirist says his plays banned the Ensour said that the Ensour said that the Ensour said that the

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tabloid offe other new Kingdom o fied advert The news fils, but clas ments are "If you something !

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MEETING UNIVERSITY STAFF: Prime Minister Shar-

if Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday receives a group of

Yarmouk University staff who called at the prime

ministry to congratulate him on forming his new

government. Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker told the group

that the government was determined to support Jordanian universities' efforts towards achieving ex-

cellence and in graduating highly qualified students.

BRIEF

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LARKET PRICE

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The first is costly, the

bourhood, "We live in a social socieinterview with the Jordan

Times.
"Most people rely on he added.

Solely dedicated to advertisements, Al Fursa tabloid offers that which no other newspaper in the Kingdom offers — a classified advertisement section.

The newspaper costs 200 fils, but classified advertisements are free of charge.

"If you are looking for something like a car to buy or a flat to rent, then you should pay for the service of having many options listed at your disposal,"

licity campaign and bigh printing costs, Mr. Nabulsi said that Al Fursa was now

Distribution currently reaches 6,000 to 7,000 readers a week, but, he said, at some exhibitions, additional copies are distributed freely as a promotional bid.

attempt to fill another gap. according to Mr. Nabulsi, who added that the newspaper and magazine mar-ket lacked a locally produced women's publica-

Ms. Kbader added. however, that a new magazine, Assafira, recently

Housing Bank Gallery.

regularly.
Mr. Nabulsi told the Jor-

"We want to address cipes, and fashion, he said.

Women's activists Haifa Abu Ghazaleb and Buthaina Jardaneh are being consulted, Mr. Nabulsi said, for information, suggestions and

editions.

4 House committees elect new chairmen

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament finance, foreign affairs, agriculture and education committees Saturday elected new chairmen to replace those who were appointed ministers to the newly-formed Cabinet of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

The Finance Committee will play the role of watchdog over the various government department's expenditures and will ensure that these departments follow the general terms and provisions of the 1995 fiscal budget, said new chairman Hashem Dabbas who replaced Ali Abul Ragheb, now minister of industry and trade. Dr. Dabbas said his com-

mittee would support and help the Audit Bureau in its drive to maintain control over department's financial activities and would actively help in the process of economic reform Meanwhile, the newly-



Abdullah Ensour

elected chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Abdullab Ensour, said in a statement Saturday that the committee would focus on Israel's withdrawal from occupied Jordanian territories on Feb. 10. Dr. Ensour said his committee' would maintain contacts with



Hashem Dabbas

envoys of various embassies in Jordan and with the European Union (EU) delegation here to discuss regional eco-

nomic development matters. The new committee chairman, who was elected to succeed Abdul Karim Kabariti, now foreign minister, said that Israel's withdrawal from Jordanian territories will take place in coordination between the two sides without the presence of any international observers, noting that Israel and Jordan have decided that they will not have demilitarised zones separating the two countries.

The House Agriculture Committee elected Ali Sbatti. as its chairman to succeed Nader Thuheirat who became minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment.

The House Education Committee elected Abdul Majid Al Aqtash as chairman to succeed Awad Khleifat who became minister of youth.

It was also announced Saturday that the Lower House will convene Sunday afternoon to hear government replies to queries raised by deputies and to refer several draft laws to specialised committees for study.

Road construction, repairs to start earlier — ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — In response to Cabinet directives, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing will this month start floating tenders for the construction and repair of agricultural roads in the governorates, which is nearly two months ahead of the schedule followed in previous years, according to Mohammad Ensonr, director of the ministry's Roads Department

Mr. Ensour said that the ministry has a budget allocation of JD 63.995 million for roads during 1995; treasury will fund JD 42 million and the rest will be funded through loans.

Of the total budget item, JD 23 million has been allocated for agricultural roads in various regions, added Mr.

During 1995, the ministry will start several projects including the construction of the 72-kilometre Ras Nagab-Agaba Road which is expected to cost JD 40 million. the 36-kilometre Karak Qatameh Road which will cost ID 26 million, the 14.5-kilometre road linking Madaba with Um Al Amad which will cost JD 9 million and the 15-kilometre North Shumble Road at the cost of JD 10

During 1995, Mr. Ensour added, the ministry will also complete the 31.5-kilometre Zara-Gbor Haditha Road in the Jordan Valley which is expected to cost JD 20 million, the eight kilometre Irbid-North Shuneb Road at JD 8 million and the 30kilometre Arda-Jordan Valley Road at about JD 4.5 million. Work on these roads began in previous years, be



Stressing the importance of quality, Sharif Zeid said

that Jordanian universities should serve as centres of

enlightenment, which enjoy freedom of expression

and free and open dialogue and as centres for

scientific research benefiting the entire country.

Speakers for the group wished the new government

success in its mission (Petra photo)

The road between Salt and the Jordan Valley (File photo)

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid directives to government de- projects as early as possible

partments and ministries Ben Sbaker Friday issued urging them to implement

during the fiscal year to avoid requiring any re-allocation of

Jordanian, **Palestinian** commerce groups sign protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) - The Chambers of Commerce of Amman and Nablus Saturday signed a protocol to promote trade and investments in Jordan and Palestine.

The protocol provides for facilitating the missions of the business community from either side and encouraging them to launch joint investment projects.

Muath Nabulsi, president of the Nablus Chamber of Commerce told Jordan Television that Nablus continues to provide Jordan with vegetable oil, soap, stone for building, and vegetables and fruits.

Expressing satisfaction with the protocol Mr. Nabulsi said that it opens the way for direct exchange of information on joint investments in the two countries and potential cooperation in economic affairs, noting that the pro-tocol signed Saturday complements the one signed two weeks ago between the counterpart federations of charnbers of commerce.

Haidar Murad, president Commerce, signed the protocol with Mr. Nabulsi.

The protocol will definitely back the private sectors on both sides, said Mr. Murad who also expressed bope that Jordan and Palestine will soon finalise and conclude the overall Jordanian-Palestinian economic agree-



Minister of Administrative Development tion spheres with visiting Yemeni Minister lateral cooperation in public administra- (Petra photo)

Mohieddin Toq Saturday discusses bi- of Administrative Reform Sadeq Abu Ras

Yemen, Jordan explore cooperation in public administration area

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni Minister of Administrative Reform Sadeq Abu Ras Saturday opened official talks with Minister of Administrave Development Mohieddin Toq on bilateral cooperation.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Mr. Abu Ras said the two sides discussed exchanging expertise and training in public administra-

The Yemeni minister was briefed on Jordan's experiences in the field of civil

service and administrative reforms as well as legislation aimed at upgraading public administration in Jordan.

The two sides discussed ospects of Yemen benefiting from Jordanian experiences in training Yemeni per-sonnel at the University of Jordan and other institutions. Mr. Abu Ras briefed Dr.

Toq on Yemen's endeavours tratio:: system.

to upgrade its public adminis-The Yemeni minister said that Jordan and Yemen

He also voiced appreciation of Jordan's support for Yemen's unity.

be hoped that they would

continue to coordinate on all

In his statement upon

arrival here Friday Mr. Abu Ras said that bis country was currently discussing with Jordan an appropriate date for convening a meeting of the higher Jordanian-Yemeni ioint committee to discuss further steps to advance bilateral ties.

Arabic advertising weekly to expand into women's issues

By Cathy King Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - A weekly Arabic newspaper, Al Fursa, which was the first and is still the only newspaper in Jordan to host classified advertisements will soon expand to cater to women's readership, International Investment Company General Manager Zuhair

Nabulsi said recently. Selling, buying, renting and letting presently de-pend on two main methods of advertising: commercial advertisements or word-of-

second free, but limited. Classified advertisements provide what each of the other two lack - an inexpensive (possibly free) means of advertising that stretches beyond the neigh-

ty," Mr. Nabulsi said in an

friends, family, relations or posted signs to buy and sell things, but now with the steady growth of the economy, people don't have so much spare time to go through those procedures,"

Under the ownership of International Investment Trading Company, Al Fursa Arabic weekly newspaper was launched in October

Mr. Nabulsi said. Despite a JD 40,000 pub-

breaking even, although not, as yet, making a profit.

Al Fursa will shortly

According to women's activist Asma Khader, there are publications, but their issuance is sporadic because of poor financial support and inadequate distribution.

she said, it remained to be seen if it would continue

dan Times that a licence to produce written material had already been obtained, and for the meantime, information and articles were being collected.

women's matters, prob-lems, feminism, methods of education, awareness of rights," among other issues such as cooking tips, re-

The expanded newspaper is expected to begin in March, be anticipated, and pending its success, it may be increased to two weekly

Iraq says 5,000 dead

(Continued from page 12)

The Financial Times quoted a spokesman for the delegation, Edmund Sykes, as saying the companies involved were aware they might be playing into the

hands of Iraq.
Some British firms are concerned that they are losing trade to rivals from other countries whose governments may be less strict about enforcing the United Nations embargo. France is actively campaigning for the trade ban to be relaxed.

Algiers cool to opposition call

(Continued from page 12) early on Saturday by Algerian security forces in

Algiers. But ANSA, which said it had learned of the arrest from the Algiers correspondent of Spain's EFE news agency, said it did not know the motive for the detention or the whereabouts of Mr.

Zaaf and bis children. Meanwhile, the World Bank announced a \$150 million economic rehabilitation loan for Algeria to provide urgent assistance for economic reforms and belp meet the population's basic needs. The loan has a 17-year

period. The money was aimed at speeding up the economic transition toward a market economy and developing a private sector in Algeria, the

term with a five-year grace

bank said in a statement. Algeria endured a stagnant economy while its population grew 2.5 per cent in the last



day meets with Indonesian Ambassador to cultural fields (Petra photo) Jordan Mohammad Hassan Adamy. Dis-

DISCUSSING EDUCATIONAL TIES: De- cussion at the meeting focused on means puty Prime Minister and Education of enhancing Jordanian-Indonesian coop-Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Satur- eration, especially in educational and

Environmental action week to start in Aqaba today

Jordanian Environment Society (JES), in cooperation with the German Friedrich Naumann Foundation, today begins a week of environmental programmes in Aqaba, according to the foundation's representative, Walter Rudel.

A total of 34 students and young environmentalists will receive a week's training in the techniques of solving and visualising environmental case-studies.

national environmental events will be provided and related printed material will be distributed, said Mr. Rudel.

Additionally, together with the Aqaba branch of JES, an evening forum on Aqaba and the marine environment will be conducted, during which all environmental hazards in the port-city will be discussed and ways and means ofapproaching them will be

some major global and vironmental exhibition will be on display, and students from Aqaba schools will get guided tours and proper introductory information on global, regional and national environmental conditions. Mr. Rudel said,

> Environmental action weeks are organised throughout the year in all major cities in order to increase knowledge and awareness in favour of environmental protection and well-being in Jordan, said the foundation rep-

WHAT'S GOING ON The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins

the listed time and place with the concerned institutions. SOUTH AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL Film entitled "Taxi to Soweto" at the Royal

and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify

Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. **EXHIBITIONS**

* Exhibition entitled "Phase II- Doors and Win-

dows" by Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh. Also showing an exhibition by contemporary Arab artists at Darat Al Funun.

International Hotel in Agaba. # Exhibition of abstract art by Zakaria Barakat at the

* Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra

Intensive knowledge on

suggested, he said. During the morning sessions, a comprehensive en-

resentative.

Big power envoys meet Bosnians after Sarajevo routes reopen

SARAJEVO (R) — Big power envoys met Bosnian Muslim leaders Saturday for talks on a peace settlement after the United Nations scored a major victory by forcing rival sides to reopen routes into the besupply

U.N. relief spokesman Kris Janowski told Reuters the route between Serb-held suburbs of Ilidza and Lukavica opened first as scheduled at 0700 GMT for two hours.

"One civilian car passed from Ilidza to Lukavica at exactly 8 a.m. and 20 minutes later a convoy of three civilian cars passed in the other direction," said Mr. Janows-

The governmentcontrolled route linking the suburbs of Dobrinja and Butmir was still sbut without official explanation one hour after it was due to open at 10

Several cars and 15 trucks were waiting in the bitter cold for the route skirting the airport perimeter to reopen and Western observers present believed the delay was caused by "lack of clarification regarding permissible cargo in

The warring sides failed to agree at a meeting Friday on what cargo could go through.

"Yesterday's meeting was utterly strange because they didn't really agree on exactly what cargo can go through," said Mr. Janowski. "But for the moment the routes are open for sure for U.N. traffic two weeks of U.N. shuttle diplomacy to overcome a long list of objections raised by the rival parties which hampered a landmark ceasefire agreement signed on New Year's Eve.

The United Nations swept aside some of their objections and literally imposed an agreement to opeo the supply routes for two hours in the morning and two in the after-

We did not get a complete agreement but we effectively imposed one and the roads will be free for civilian and humanitarian traffic according to a strict interpretation,"
U.N. Protection Force spokesman Major Herve Gourmelon said.

He said the routes could be used by vehicles of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees IUNHCR) and more than 100 aid agencies affiliated with UNHCR, as well as local pedestrians and motorists carrying personal belong-

U.N. spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said the rivals themselves had struck a separate deal without U.N. belp.

"We have anecdotal evidence of one and possibly two Bosnian commercial convoys which entered Sarajevo within the past few days from Kiseljak, with a Serb police

Big power envoys, on a tour of former Yugoslavia this week in a bid to resuscittate Bosnia peace talks, met

group," comprising Britain, Germany, Russia and the United States, bad 10 hours of talks with Bosnian Serb leaders in nearby Pale

After meeting the envoys Thursday, Bosnian government leaders said that they were not prepared to be steamrollered into agreeing to changes in the peace plan to suit the Serbs.

But the contact group now depicts the plan as a starting point for further negotiations an idea Bosnian Serbs are

happy to go along with.
The main warring factions in Bosnia have signed a fourmonth ceasefire intended to provide breathing space for fresb negotiations to end nearly three years of war in Bosnia.

"The question now is whether this is the beginning of new negotiations and it remains to be seen," a contact group aide told Reuters

in Pale.
A Bosnian Serb source said the main stumbling block was how to define the Serbs' approach to the peace plan drafted six months ago which they rejected at a referendum last August.

The Bosnian government appears opposed to further talks until the Serbs accept

the onginal plan. Under the plan, the Bosnian government and ailied Bosnian Croats would control 51 per cent of the former Yogoslav Republie and the Serbs would have 49 per cent, meaning they would have to cede one-third of territory

ton in Washington. The U.N. troops bave "At the moment, I cannot largely been used to man exactly say when, but we demarcation lines between should weigh the timing while Croats and rebel Krajina watching the situation after Serbs who gained control of a local elections," he told a third of Croatia during Zag-reb's bloody seven-month news conference during a day trip to the northern provinfight for independence from federal Yngoslavia in 1991. cial city of Sapporo.

Murayama's predecessor as party chairman, announced Friday a list of 24 Socialist lawmakers, including him-self, who will form a separate

voting bloc in parliament with sympathisers from other parties. The night-winger within the party insisted that the rebels

were trying to set the framework for a new party to

LIMA (R) - Peru has de-

nied its troops had entered

Ecuadorean territory but acknowledged Peruvian pat-

rols had exchanged gunfire

twice this week while patroll-

ing an undefined stretch of

Foreign Minister Efrain

Goldenberg said Peru had protested to the Quito gov-

ernment what he called a

violation of Peruvian terri-

border.

Sadao Yamahana, Mr.

Bosnian President Alija izetbegovic (left),

Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic (right) and

British member of the contact group, William

Ehrman (centre) step out from talks in

Japan's Murayama offers to shake up

be joined by the rest of the

He also asked the party,

formally called the Social

Democratic Party (SDP), to

retain them on its roster so

that they could continue to

The premier himself has advocated the creation of a

new Socialist-led party with

liberals and academics to

weather Japan's political tur-

moil caused by the emerg-

ence of two rival conservative

But Mr. Murayama said

the SDP forms a solid voting

bloc and cannot accept a

separate force within itself.

into taking joint action," he

are against the party's links

with its former foe, the Liber-

al Democratic Party (LDP),

in the current ruling coali-

tion. Some of them were

reported to be seeking ties with opposition forces in up-

The conservative LDP lost

its scandal-tainted 37-year grip

oo power in general elections

in July 1993, giving rise to a

coalition government shared by LDP defectors, centrists

coming national elections.

We have to persuade them

Most of the Socialist rebels

receive party subsidies.

socialist party after April polls

blocs.

Sarajevo. The group has been tnuring ex-

TOKYO (AFP) - Prime

Minister Tomiichi Murayama

offered Saturday to shake up

his Socialist Party after local

elections in April, rejecting a

hasty move by party rebels to

create a new force in parlia-

"Though local elections.

we will try to generate a

tailwind toward creating a

new party" Mr. Murayama

said the day after his return

home from a low-key summit

with U.S. President Bill Clin-

Peru denies troops entered Ecuador tory. But he played down the

they always have been, with-in Peruvian territory," he incidents and called for a realistic and constructive disaid. alogue" to ease tensions. tested the incidents first,

Mr. Goldenberg told a soldiers Monday and Wednesday were on routine border patrols on Peruvian territory along the Cenepa River when they were shot at by Ecuadorean soldiers and returned fire.

"Peruvian troops are, as

with Ecuadorean troops.

Yugoslavia seeking acceptance for their peace

plan from the warring factions. Talks with Bosnian government will continue on Friday

and Socialists.

helm.

But, in June, the Socialists

bolted the anti-LDP alliance.

which tried to alienate them

from policy decisions. Wield-

ing the swing vote in parlia-ment, they belped the LDP

come back to power in a new

coalition and Mr. Murayama

was elected as a compromise

The anti-LDP alliance last

month formed a grand

opposition party, Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), with

former premier and LDP

head Toshiki Kaifu at its

The SDP now faces the

possibility of a total loss to

Senate polls in July and the

next general elections, seen

likely to be called by the end

of this year.
Mr. Morayama said the

SDP might merge with the

New Party Sakigake, a third

a forward-looking, positive

manner," the premier said.

Ecuadorean officials pro-

of Peru's army had crossed

into Ecuador twice and the

second time fired at

Ecuador's troops when

premier in that process.

ordered to half. The Peruvian army at first denied any armed encounter

Georgia's former defence minister detained Shevardnadze described the caught redhanded breaking

the law.

TBILISI (R) — Georgia's former defence minister Tengiz Kitovani and some 370 of his supporters were detained on Saturday after government forces stopped their march to recapture the rebel region of Abkhazia, a senior

official said. "At four a.m. (midnight GMT) Kitovani and some 370 other people were detained and disarmed in western Georgia some 250 kilometres from Tbilis'." First Deputy Interior Minister Dzhimi Mikeladze told

On Friday a convoy of 12 buses, transporting some 500 fighters loyal to Mr. Kitovani and ex-Prime Minister Tengiz Sieuz, headed for Zugdidi. near the Abkhazian border. to start military operations

Georgia's leader Eduard

actions of Mr. Kitovani and his National Liberation Front as an attempt to trigger a civil war. He had ordered his forces to stop Mr. Kitovani's men and also to step up security measures. Georgian Radio said five

men were wounded during clashes when the first six buses were stopped near the towns of Gon and Osiaun. Some 150 people were disarmed.

The other buses, along with Mr. Kitovani and Sigua. were stopped further west near Kutaisi, according to Russia's Interfax News Agen-

Georeia's Prosecutor General Dzamled Bahilashvili told reporters Saturday that Mr. Kitovani, a member of parliament, could not claim parliamentary immunity because he had been

whether Mr. Sigua was detained.

There were no reports on Georgia maintains a fragile

Russian-mediated truce with Abkhazian separatists who drove government forces from the Black Sea region in

The two sides recently agreed to start resettling hundreds of thousands of ethnic Georgians who fled the fighting in 1993.

Mr. Kitovani, as defence minister, had helped provoke the Abkhazian revolt in July 1992 by flooding the region with undisciplined troops after the local parliament voted itself a measure of autonomy. He was subsequently removed from power. Russia's implicit backing

helped Abkhazian forces to oust Georgian troops in 1993.

spades and play the race card. But this isn't a race

to play that card." Mr. Cochran, one of the best-known trial lawyers in California whose client list reads like a who's who of Hollywood, launehed a blistering attack on Mr. Darden's remarks and took the opportunity to accuse the prosecution team of being

To say the jury could not be fair was outrageous. Mr.

In a reference to the previous two days of hearings about whether the prosecution could introduce testimony relating to Mr. Simpson's alleged history of spousal abuse, Mr. Cochran accused prosecutors of launching a character assassination attempt against his

Antique violin stolen from teenage prodigy

LONDON (AFP) -

thieves stole her £200,000 (\$320.000) 18th century Italian-made Guadagnioi violin, press reports said.
"She is still in a state of shock because the violin has been -all over the world with her and she made her debut with the London Symphoov Orchestra playing it," Pamela Nieholson said of her Singapore-born danghter. There is a lot of her own history attached to it, not to mention the previous 200 years, and she would dearly love for it to be returned." Vanessa has been hailed as one of the finest violinists of her generation and has made several acclaimed albums of classical music, with a new pop album soon to be resed. Police said the burglars picked the front door locks at the family's West honery is still await-London home in the early incholder of the other hours Friday. They said the i the prize to come thieves had known precisely what they were looking for say the co-winner and ignored a host of other instruments in the home's ground-floor music room.

Christie's sale of Nureyev items

NEW YORK (R) - Renowned dancer Rudolf \$3.2 million to \$4.8 million.

to \$450,000, fetched the top

minority partner in the ruling coalition, in forming a new Sakigake is headed by Finance Minister Masayoshi "We would like to bold talks with them (Sakigake) in

masters paintings, Eli-zabethan oak bed and Vene the oil tanker Jordan tian glass chandelier. "People tomased to import oil came from around the world closen during the Gulf came from around the word closed during the Gulf to bid and bid feverishly," stude sold. The tanksaid Christopher Burge, with as been used for chairman of Christie's American 10 ship oil from i.e.a. "The extraordinary sale and was leased to an aesults are a tribute to the choose oil transporting enius that was Nureyey, with carries a JD 2.5 man whose collection emboring nice tag 15awt Al and his actistic reassions and in

died his artistic passions and flair for the dramatic." Record prices were set for work Tatal Export Develop-by 10 painters and for a Ro- all Trade Centres Corman marble statue. Sir meteived 65 invita-

Joshua Reynolds' handsome participate in local Portrait of George Town Emational fairs during shend, estimated at \$350,000 F(Al Aswag).

lancal power gener-

Spielberg, partners name their studio

the Venetian rococo-syle murano glass 50-light change

mous.

PASADENA, California at Oalaji Bros. Trad-(AFP) — Film director and in Section Supply 26,000 Steven Spielberg and in Section Supply 26,000 Steven Spielberg and in Section Supply 26,000 Distour). up with a name for their studio: Dreamworks SAC at 100ard of directors of "What is interesting to be 15 bistrict Electricity how our dream was born, \$250 decided to give all whether or not we can do 15 to 10 personal whether or not we can be 25 to 2 month personal whether or not we can do the a ID 10 give all differently," former Displayer a month starting studio head Katzenberg to the The workers had Dreamworks SKG is a creative and the other cent moon holding a my language of last Scharman with the slogar. fisherman with the slogar.
"A future of opportunities." The trio's next move will be a lordan Petroleum to find an appropriate site for let y Compaoy the studio, surrounded by many ced a tender for the promote creativity. "It is day for accepting going to be a wonderful early feb. 26, 1995 (Al lege campus" than the use 1995 budget for the factory look of most stamon 1995 budget for the Spielberg said. The partners 1995 budget for the estimated to be worth a come to be 10 5.5 million, plan to 1996 budget for the bined \$2 billion, plan to 1996 budget for the bined \$2 billion, plan to 1996 budget was 91.6 per this enterprise makes had budget (Al

and all agencies accredited to Bosnia's Muslim-led leaders. iocluding President Alija UNHCR, as well as local Izetbegovic, his deputy Ejup Ganic and Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic. The reopening of vital supply land rontes follows they now control.

Los Angeles faces devastating quakes

as ground tension builds — scientists Scientists have warned that mounting subterranean tension here threatens the second biggest U.S. city with tremendous earthquakes that could level 20-story buildings currently considered safe.

Stress between the Pacific and North American land plates that meet in California has been building to a critical point without needed relief, researchers reported in this week's edition of the journal Science.

"We think it's likely these faults could produce very large earthquakes, something that we've never seen in the historic record," said geologist James Dolan from the Southern California Earthquake Centre at the Universi-

ty of Southern California.
"When you look at geologically similar regions around the world, historically many of them have produced earthquakes in the 7.5 range from faults that look just like the faults beneath Los Angeles, he added.

The measurements cited are on the Richter scale. Each ume the Richter magnitude increases by one the ground motion is at least 10 times higher. A quake above 7.0 is capable

of heavy, widespread damage. A magnitude above 8.0 is capable of tremendous damage.

48 kilometres (30 miles) from downtown is regarded as the "Big Ooe" in California. The quake that struck 40

kilometres (25 miles) away from central Los Angeles on Jan. 17, 1994 registered at a magnitude of 6.7, leaving 61 ages after it.

Los Angeles should have experienced 17 quakes the size of last year's incident since 1800 that would have released pressure between the land masses, Mr. Dolan said. Instead it bas witnessed only two.

once every 100 plus years he

ceeded 7.0 since record keeping began in the 1780s.

An 8.0 quake located on the San Andreas fault some

dead and \$20 billion in dam-

Mr. Dolan calculated that the area should experience a quake ranging between 7.2 and 7.6 every 140 years. A "Big One" on the San Andreas fault should come

But based on study of geological evidence quakes in

Magnitude 7.0 quakes striking Los Angeles would be much more destructive

than the "Big One" because their fault line is directly uoder the city, Mr. Dolan The city was not prepared

for earthquakes larger than magnitude seven, an accompanying study by U.S. Geological Survey seismologist homas Heaton reported. Computer models Mr.

Heaton and his colleagues used found that shaking from such quakes directly under the city would destroy 20story buildings that meet current huilding codes. In the aftermath of last

year's quake investigators found cracked welds in steel frame buildings.

A third study of mathematical models for future quakes reported that 30 per cent of the stress building up would be relieved through quakes the size of last year's. Less frequent, larger incidents would account for the remaining 70 per cent.

Liberians angry at peace talks failure

MONROVIA (Agencies) -Angry crowds in Liberia's to be installed on Jan. 11. capital Monrovia threw up roadblocks Saturday to protest at faction leaders' failure to agree on a transitional ruling council, United Nations sources said.

The faction leaders flew home from Ghana Friday to be met at the airport by hundreds of enraged Liberians. African peacekeepers spirited the delegates out of the airport in armoured vehicles by a back route, enraging the crowd who stoned cars in protest. The city quietened during

the overnight curfew but protests resumed Saturday morning. U.N. officials said a mob broke into the residence of

civilian politican Bacchus Matthews. There was no immediate news of his fate. Earlier, a grenade was thrown into the headquarters of Mr. Matthews' political party, the Un-

ited Peoples Party. Talks to set up a transitional ruling council broke up in Accra Thursday. The Ghana government sent the delegates home and told them to settle their differences among themselves.

Under the terms of the peace accord — Liberia's 12th — signed in Accra on Dec. 21, the council was supposed to oversee disarmament and run the country until elections scheduled for November.

A ceasefire that began on Dec. 28 is more or less hold-

The council had been due Four of five seats are agreed. The dispute is over a seat to be shared between the former national army and a coalition of smaller militias.

Liberians are increasingly frustrated at the failure of successive peace initiatives to end the five-year-old civil war, which has killed some 150,000 people. Meanwhile, taking the law into your own hands vigilante-style may be frowned upon elsewhere, but

after five years of bloodshed the civilians of war-ravaged Liberia have finally decided it is a necessity. After years at the mercy of warlords whose forces have periodically massacred them. Monrovians - fed up with the endless violence that kil-

led some 50 more civilians last month - decided that enough was enough. Night-time vigilante patrols have been organised across the city, sending the crime rate plummeting and leading a few to speculate that if the vigilante groups had been formed sooner the war might never have

ity it has. According to those involved, the incident that rallied people to act was the Dec. 15 massacre of more than 50 civilians in the Paynesville suburb of outer Monrovia. The victims, virtually all unarmed, were burnt to death and hacked to pieces by as yet unidentified gunmen in a disolay of bar-

reached the depths of depray-

barity that has become all too

could be next," said Zoema Thompson, who leads the watch team at Mamba Point. near the centre of the city.

peacekeeping force ECO-MOG and the hamstrung national police, and armed with only sticks and cutlasses. They hide in the shadows

Only now and then a stray torch beacon betrays their presence as members of the watch signal to each other. On an average night, Mr. Thompson's team musters

have no choice. "If you don't protect yourself at night, you might not be able to go to work the next

Monrovia's night-time curwatch really starts work around 10 p.m., when guards are posted on each of six entry points into the 2,500-

familiar here since Liberia's civil war crupted on Dec. 24. "Your own community

Backed like other vigilante teams by the African

Thompson's men are almost invisible as they keep watch over their neighbourhoods during the night-time curiew. to surprise suspected rogues.

around 25 to 35 men. It's not enough, and not easy as many of them work during the day, but the men say they

day," says Mr. Thompson. few begins at 7 p.m. but the

strong community. By midnight all residents are expected to be indoors and anyone wandering around after this time is turned over to the African peacekeeping force ECO-MOG

S. African police indemnities

the serving police chief. Former Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok, former Defence Minister Magnus Malan and Commissioner of Police, General Johan Van Der Merwe were on the list revealed Friday by Justice

Minister Dullah Omar. The 3,500 people named were indemnified by former President F.W. De Klerk io the last days of white rule from prosecution for unnamed acts committed in de-

fence of apartheid. ine cianoestine amnesties

majority democracy. irregular action.

The former president also

Row erupts over

U.N. officials said Friday

that prospects of thrashing

out an eventual peace settle

ment could be in jeopardy

following Zagreb's decision

to end the mandate of 15,000

U.N. peacekeeping troops in Croatia by March 31.

the U.N. force could trigger

renewed war in Croatia with

rebel Serbs, involve the rump

Yugoslav army and aggravate

Bosnia's much bloodier con-

cials said Friday they have

already started preparations for the withdrawal of U.N.

troops from Croatia, follow-

ing the government's surprise

decision to order them out.

preliminary preparations.

the U.N. spokesman in Zag-reb. Michael Williams, told

"We are working on the assumption that the (Croa-

tian government's) decision is

final. The assessment is that

we will not have a job to do

after March 31, and we can-

not wait till then to do prepa-

President Franjo Tudjman formally notified U.N.

Secretary-General Bontros

Ghali Thursday that Croatia

expects some 15,000 U.N.

troops and personnel de-

ployed in contested areas

since 1992 to withdraw by the

end of June.

"We have started making

The United Nations offi-

They fear the departure of

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — A furious row broke out Saturday over revelations that South Africa's former white rulers granted 3,500 police officers immunity from prosecution, including two former cabinet ministers and

Mr. De Klerk, now one of two deputy presidents in President Nelson Mandela's unity government, has denied any wrongdoing in granting days before last April's allrace election that ushered in

Mr. De Klerk told the Weekend Star newspaper that allegations of wrongdoing were "seriously misleading" and he "strongly rejected any suggestion of

said the indemnities "do not necessarily constitute admission of guilt."
Mr. Vlok, Mr. Malan, Gen. Van Der Merwe and

against Abkhazian separatthe others have not been granted immunity

LOS ANGELES (R) - The two black lawsers in the O.J. Simpson double murder trial particigated in the most emotive debate heard yet in the highly volatile case as they discussed a racial epithe: referred to

throughout as the "N" word, Deputy District Attorney Chris Darden told Superior Court Judge Lance Ito he and fellow black lawyer Johnny Cochran, one of Mr. Simpson's lead defence attorneys. had been chosen to debate "this nasty little issue" because of their race. "If anyone should slip and

better to have a black man do it. If a white lawyer utters it will offend all." be said. At issue was whether the defence will be able to question detective Mark Fuhrman about his 1981 application for a disability pension from the Los Angeles Police Department in which he said he was under stress because he could not handle the pressure of

working with minorities.

utter the word it's probably

Simpson lawyers throw barbs in racial debate Fuhrman testified at a pretrial hearing he found a bloody glove on Mr. Simpsecution. The jury is made up of son's estate hours after the football legend's wife and a eight blacks, two Hispanies.

> view with a police psychiatrist in 1981 Mr. Fuhrman used the racial epithet "nigger" on several occasions. Defence lawyers have tried to brand Mr. Fuhrman as a racist using the psychiatrist's interiew and remarks Mr.

Fuhrman aliegedly made to a

male friend had been stabbed

The defence says in court

documents that in an inter-

to death.

woman about hating interracial couples. Mr. Simpson had pleaded not guilty to murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. both of whom were white. outside Nicole Simpson's

townhouse last June 12. Mr. Darden argued Friday the defence wanted to use the "n" word — it was never pronounced in full during the hearing - in the trial in order

to turn the predominantlyblack jury against the pro-

one white and one mixed-

race white/native American. "It is the filthiest, nastiest, dirtiest word in the English language," Mr. Darden said adding it had no place in the English language and no place in the courtroom. There was no legal or valid

tioning Mr. Fuhrman about whether he used a racial epithet 15 years ago. "But Mr. Cochran and the defence have a purpose in going into that area. And the purpose is to inflame the passions of the jury and to

purpose, he argued, in ques-

Darden said. "It will affect their judgment. It will impair their ability to be fair and impartial," Mr. Darden added. He said Mr. Cochran

wanted to "play the ace of

ask them to pick sides," Mr.

case. We shouldn't allow him

less than professional.

Cochran said.

client.

Judge Ito has said he intends to have opening arguments in the case next Thursday or Friday.

siness &

"husiness

Vanessa-Mae Nicholson, a eal 16-year-old music prodigy, was said to be destitute after conomic news the Arabic press wetian ... s half lottery's st prize impresents half of the lars first prize of Jorgoonal lottery, went Empian worker. The 25 which issues the

strhave left the coun-They said the violin was infor chicken with z i emiry date will be Record-breaking and to consumers this 3800 fils per kilogramlicter was selling ore-

Nureyev's collection of cos-tumes, jewellery, art and fur-range considers estabnishings from his New York flat netted more than \$7.9 and consucers established more than \$7.9 in cooperation with million, breaking some records in a two-day auction at Christie's that ended Friday. The auction's take was does the pre-sale estimate of the pre-sale estimate of the pre-sale estimate of the pre-sale estimate of the pre-sale estimate.

The season's most prestigious ille privatisation of the and high-profile auction drew is Electricity Authority a packed house that re- ken postponed until sponded emotionally, parti- a 1995. The privatisa-cularly to the fast-paced bid- a sheduled to begin ding for the late dancer's old and (Sawt Al Shaab).

k another Egyptian

price of \$772,500 while John Heimrich Fusell's Salar la year was 4,076 Starting From The Touch Of Jahny, compared to Ithuricl's Lance, a subject from John Milton's Paradise from John Milton's Paraduse dectric power Lost, came in second at a land in each of these Much, the growth in set for painter Charles Par generated for local Meynier whose Wisdom Defending Youth Against Love 187.7 per cent. The brought \$486,000. The Roman marble torso brought is \$310,500. Cheers greeted the 1994, compared to 1993 (Al 287.7 per cent. The stavans in 1993 (Al impassioned bidding from the

gallery and on the phone for Nureyev's Elizabethan bed ed on an approval which reached \$225,500 and for the \$338,000 offered for for traders in and electronic was set up on Jan. lier that graced the dancer's palatial dining room. All the The founders are is all interested tradbidders remained anony and a meeong at the

ministry of supply

into it for the first few years.

Katzenberg said. Since it was a the formed in October of heart in violations were residued in the partnership's televisity in violations were restruck a production deal with the Most of the AZTAQ

Chamber of Comm Tuesday (Jan. 17.

DAY, JANUARY 15, 1

lecord-breaking hristie's sale of Nureyev Item

ney said the violin wa

EW YORK (R) -: owned dancer Rue ureyev's collection of mes, jewellery, an and shings from his New Y at netted more than ! incn. breaking some erds in a two-day altern hristie's that ended for te auction's take was e the pre-sale estimate .2 million to \$4.8 ml se season's those presig d high-profile auction & packed house that: anded emotionally, at . iacly to the fast-paced? te for the late dencery istors paintings fo remain cak bed and Vern glass chandeller. Te the trans areas the ar tid and bid fevertik d Christophet ange sirmer of Corison in Te cursome wits are a tribunate mus that was Ness.: n whose milenment d his artistic passes दे कतारक भवत्व ध्याविष painters and forth marble statue hua Raynolds' hanco George Is no. Someted at Site 2 0 5 5 5 5(0) while it imrich Fuseli's E Ting From The Took ine s Lance a ski E John Militon's Part. came in second SA A record wed for painter Can mber V work

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Venetian recome

are no signs of an explosion inside the aircraft." much progress in the crash

probe. Baja, 330 miles (530 kilometres) north of Bogota,

world's worst air safety re-

relish the contact, again waving his cane playfully when greeted by dancers at a youth

of World Youth Day. The crowd, estimated by

when the Pope arrived at the park, beating drums, setting off firecrackers and singing and chanting for 15 minutes. World Youth Day, the highlight of his four-day visit, will be marked by a mass at the park Sunday morning.

The Vatican has shrugged off a security alert centred on a reported bomb plot by Muslim extremists, saying the nothing will change for the rest of the stay of the holy father here." Varican spokes-man Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters.

has confirmed two people have been arrested but has the plot.

Security sources, however, say it involves a gang of extremists who sneaked into the country over a period of several months led by a man of Palestinian descent.

Addressing a morning mass and later a gathering of Filipino bishops, the Pope spoke bluntly about con-traception and social problems facing this nation of 65 million people, some 85 per cent of whom are Catholics.

"Because the eburch treasures the divine gifts of human life and its inalienable dignity, she cannot but strenuously oppose all measures which are in any way directed at promoting abortion, ster-

ilisation and also contraceprion," Pope John Paul said. It was his first comment on an issue which has caused increasingly biner exchanges between the local church and the government of President Fidel Ramos, which promotes family planning programmes.

The government says family planning is one way to help alleviate the poverty which afflicts more than two-thirds of the population, according to United Nations estimates.

The Pontiff also attacked poverty and the unequal distribution of wealth.

"Too many families remain without land to till or a home to live in, and too many people are without employment and basic services." he said in a speech released by

"Your task must be to help create a new attitude, a con-Kashmir has been the viction shaped by the princicause of two of the three wars ple of the social purpose of power and wealth, which can lead to appropriate changes told the bishops.

Over 150 feared dead in Bangladesh train collision

ladeshi prime minister flew. Saturday to the scene of a train crash in northern Bangladesh as resours hacking their way through rwisted wreckage said they feared the death toll could top 150.

While officials insisted that fewer than 30 had died in the overnight collision near Dinajpur, close to the Indian border, reporters on the spot said this appeared to be an attempt to limit compensation payments to the victims' families.

"I know more than 100 bodies bad been plucked from the rubble by dayhreak." said one government rescuer, who declined to be identified.

The number of injuries is no less than 500, maybe more, and dozens among them are simply fighting for their lives," he told a repor-

The collision occurred late Friday when a passenger train travelling at high speed slammed into a stationary one at Hilly station near Dinajpur, 475 kilometres from Dbaka.

This is a major accident involving two trains, one heavily crowded for a night trip," one reporter told Reu-

"Nearly 18 hours after the accident I saw rescuers still bartling through the twisted wreckage and pulling out bodies," he said.

"The official death count is something different," said another reporter in Jovpurhat.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who flew to the accident site with Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, expressed deep sbock and ordered compensarion for the victims. She also visited some of

DHAKA (R) - The Bang- the injured and prayed for their early recovery, witnes-

"We are really puzzled by the official figures," said Motiur Rahman, editor of the local daily Uttar Bangla,

after visiting the scene. "If we take it ... then where have the truckloads of bodies people saw gone.

There is no formal search operation as such. Local people, helped by police, were seen curring steel plates from the mangled coaches and taking out dead and injured," he

Mr. Rahman said Premier Zia had been deeply moved by borror tales told by wailing widows and bereaved parents and children.
He said he believed the

final death toll could well top Akhtar Hossain, a student

leader in Hilly, said he and his companions had retrieved 30 bodies in a single hour. Railway officials speculated that the accident might have been due to "nonsetting of points" or to faulty डांक्षाबोड.

They said the Hilly station master and pointsman had been suspended on suspicion of neglecting their duties.
Witnesses said many of the

injured bad heen taken across the Indian border just 100 metres from the crash site to bospitals in West Bengal state.

"Saving lives is the first priority, so India was the natural choice." one reporter quoted an official as saying.

Police in Khulna, a southern district town 280 kilometres from Hilly where one of the doomed trains had been heading, said they also feared the toll could rise to

It was the worst train crash in Bangladesb since January

1989 when 135 people were killed and over 1,000 injured as two packed trains collided at Pubail 24 kilometres

from Dhaka. In a separate development, Bangladesh's opposition leader Sheikh Hasina said an agreement to end the country's 10-month political crisis was possible hut doubted whether Prime Minister Zia

would stick to n. "She may back out as she has done on several occasions before," Mrs. Hasina told Reuters as negotiators sought to resolve what is known in Dhaka as the "battle of the two women."

Mrs. Hasina has led an opposition boycott of parliament which began last February as part of a campaign to drive from office a government she alleges is antidemocratic and willing to do anything to stay in power.

Almost the entire opposition banded in their resignations from parliament on Dec. 28 as the battle intensified to force Mrs. Zia to quit and allow a neutral caretaker government to supervise fresh elections.

Mrs. Hasina said in an interview late Friday she was not interested in the constitutional niceties of where power should like in the interim. now under intense discussion

by negotiators. The constitution vests executive power in the prime minister, who announced a day after the opposition resignation from parliament that she would step down 30 days before elections due in 1996.

But if there is no prime minister, who must be chosen from parliament, who wields

Mediators are trying to figure out how to give power temporarily to President

Aboul Rahman Biswas, with

the opposition pressing for . constitutional amendment. Mrs. Zia has rejected the idea but one of her ministers has suggested a new flexibil-

ity on the issue. Mrs Hasina was impatient at such legalities. "It's a polirical decision. If you make the decision, everything can

be resolved," she said. The trouble is they haven't decided what they rea!ly want to do. They are just making confusion and hoping in this way they can stay in power for a long time," she

said. Mistrust and dislike for Mrs. Zia, the widow of a former militery president and who declined to be interviewed, was evident in everything Mrs. Hasina said.

The opposition leader is the daughter of Sheikh Mijibur Rahman, who led Bangladesh to independence from Pakistan in a war in 1971 or to be killed by army office : four years later

"For instance, the day vewere handing in our resignations (from parliament) that woman said she was ready to do something and please would we wait," Mrs. Hasing said.

"We waited for two hours to give her a chance and nothing happened."

Government ministers are equally scornful of Mrs. Hasina. One, who asked not to be named, said of the same incident: "Hasina was well aware that the prime minister would announce her decision to step down 30 days before elections and went ahead with the

resignations anyway." Mrs. Hasina said she had no intention to returning to parliament. The opposition resignation have not yet been accepted in an attempt to give negotiators more time to

Perry ends visit to India

NEW DELHI (Agencies) -U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry left India for Washington Saturday at the end of a week-long trip to the Middle East and South Asia. U.S. officials said.

Mr. Perry left only hours before U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown was set to arrive in the Indian capital at the start of a five-day visit to promote business ties.

Mr. Perry spent the day touring an air force base and visiting the Taj Mahal in Agra, south of the Indian capital.

During his three-day stay in India, Mr. Perry signed an agreement cementing bilateral defence ties which be said opened a new era in security relations between the two cold war antagonists.

Before India, Mr. Perry visited Pakistan, Israel and Egypt. He was the first U.S. defence secretary to visit India since the end of the cold war.

Mr. Perry warned Saturday that rising religious fun-damentalism in South Asia posed a threat to stability in the region.

The Pentagon chief, in an interview to a television network before leaving for Washington, said people using violence in the name of

religion were "destabilising" "We are concerned with people using religious cover for violent action for taking away the freedom of others, Mr. Perry said in reply to questions on the Muslim

separatist campaign raging in India's northern Kashmir "We see it going all over the world and we see plenty (of religious extremism) in South Asia and we are concerned over it, as it would

prove to be a force for instability in the region," Mr. Perry told the Eyewitness network. Mr. Perry said Washing-

ton's "new security relation" with New Delhi and Islamabad would help in resolving the Kashmir conflict. India accuses Pakistan of

arming and training Kashmir's Islamic guerrillas. Islamabad denies the charge but extends moral and diplomatic support to the drive, which has claimed more than 10,000 lives since 1989 in the Himalayan region.

India and Pakistan have fought since the 1947 indea political career. pendence of the South Asian Sonia Gandhi is widely besubcontinent.

Italy's Dini prepares to form cabinet

ROME (R) - Lamberto Dini began work Saturday on forming Italy's 54th government since world war II as newspapers applauded his appointment but debated how long it would be before fresh elections were held.

The influential Corrière Della Sera declared the choice of Mr. Dini, the outgoing treasury minister, as prime minister-designate "an honourable truce" following the succession to Silvio Berlusconi who resigned on Dec.

"Dini, a new chapter opens," was the hanner headline on the front page of La Republica, a daily which has been one of the strongest opponents of media magnate Berlusconi.

Former central banker Dini gathered his closest aides at the Treasury Ministry Saturday as he set to work on a cabinet he has said will consist of technocrats drawn from outside the world of party politics.

Observers said he could have his list of ministers ready by the middle of next week and the signs are that his government will win broad support in parliament, at least initially.

Newspapers agreed that

Antonio Di Pietro, the former Milan magistrate who became a folk bero for h. work in fighting correpuon, was a leading candidate for either the post of justice or interior minister.

But Mr. Di Pietro repeated Saturday that he had no plans to enter politics.
"I'm honoured hy sugges tions that I may be offered a

job in government but I reneat that it is not my intenncs," he told reporters in Milan. The constitution does not

allow either Mr. Dini or President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, the man who appointed him, to set a time limit on his premiership and political parties are already bickering over how long Mr. Dini should govern.

Mr. Dini, who is not a

member of any party and only entered politics when Mr. Berlusconi made him treasury minister last May, said his government had a clear four-point prog-

ramme. He said the government must pass a mini-hudget to rein in Italy's runaway deficit, overhaul the pension system, ensure fair representation in the media for all political parties and reform the electoral system ahead of regional polls this spring. Billionaire businessman Berlusconi, swept to power in

general elections 10 months ago, said that the Dini solution would only work if it were swiftly followed by elec-

"For the moment I'm saying goodhye, hut I'll be back soon," Mr. Berlusconi told reporters.

Cesare Previti, coordinator Mr. Berluscor lia party, told the daily La Stampa that the government could have its programme through parliament by April, paving the way for elections

in June. "This is a government that could be ready in a few days and could resign in early April," he said. "By June we can vote again to finally give this country a stable govern-

ment. But Umberto Bossi, leader of the Northern League whose munny orought down Mr. Berlusconi's sevenmonth-old coalition, said Mr. Dini's appointment would extend the life of the current

parliament indefinitely. "So much water will flow under the bridge before elections are held that Berlusconi will die of boredom and old age," Mr. Bossi said.

Sonia Gandhi may not be averse to politics

NEW DELHI (AFP) - The widow of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Saturday denied she authorised a family friend to say she would never take to polines, an indication that she might not be opposed to a political career.

Sonia Gandhi reacted sharply to a statement issued Thursday by Mohammad Yunus, a firend of Gandhi family, that the ftalian-born woman had said she would nevet join a political party. "I would rather beg in the

streets of Delhi than join (a party) or allow my children to enter polines," Mr. Yunus quoted Sonia Gandhi as telling him. An aide to Sonia Gandhi

said here: "Gandhi has issued no statement nor authorised any statement on ber behalf." Sonia Gandhi does not talk directly to the press. Dissidents in Congress (11

Party of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao have been urging the charismatic Sonia Gandhi to take to politics. but she has never publicly reacted to their demands. Saturday's comments by

her aide were the first indication since Rajiv Gandhi's assassination in May 1991 that Sonia, who enjoys tremendous clout in the Congress, may not he opposed to

lieved to be pulling political

strings in the bitter inner-

party struggle aimed at ousting Premier Rao. A former federal minister, Arjun Singh, who quit the cabinet on Dec. 24 in a direct challenge to Mr. Rao, has met repeatedly with Sonia Gandhi and did so again Fri-

Political observers have said that Sonia Gandhi, who is counted among the most powerful figures in India although she holds no government or political post, may be quietly backing Arjun

Singh. Sonia married Rajiv Gandhi in 1968, but declined a Congress request to take up the party leadership after his assassination, enabling Mr. Rao to become India's ninth prime minister.

The Nehru-Gandhi dynasty ruled India for 40 years, beginning with Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first premier, his daughter, Indira Gandhi, and her son, Rajiv.

Meanwhile nearly 100 per cent of urban Indians are convinced that politicians, cabinet ministers and the police are corrupt, according to a poll published in the Times of India Saturday.

Ninety-eight per cent of the 1,544 men and women surveyed in six cities said they were "convinced that politicians and ministers are corrupt," followed by the police (97 per cent) and civil ser-

vants (88 per cent). The poll said 63 per cent of the respondents felt that politicians were, on a scale of one to 10, the "most cor-rupt." Only two per cent thought politicians were hon-

est. Twenty-four per cent considered the police the "most corrupt."

The Times said 80 per cent of those surveyed said lawyers were dishonest and 66 per cent doubted the in-

tegrity of judges.

Another 55 per cent put journalists in the corruption

The poll was carried out in New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangaiore and Hyderabad. "Corruption may be a

glohal phenomenon... but there is more of it in India than anywhere else." the newspaper commented. "It has come to pervade all professions the public has to deal with, and it has grown in the last three to four years."

The paper said getting police help without paying brihes was considered the most difficult of all, while 66 per cent of people saw no chance of getting a gas, electricity or telephone connection without greasing palms. and 60 per cent had no hopes of admission into schools and colleges in a straightfor-

Chechen women with an automatic weapon walk to the

sent reinforcements of several hundred naval personnel including Marines to the breakaway republic (AFP photo) frontline in downtown Grozny. According to reports, Russia

"We have nowbere to go

and who would take us in

now with our nationality?"

said Zarima, a cheerful 20-

year-old Russian girl, whose

bright smile is a welcome

relief from the overwbelming

misery on faces everywhere

"We are used to the bomb-

ing, you can get used to any

Zarima, a hright red shawl over her bead, had to give up

her studies a year ago be-

cause of the economic chaos

in Chechenya since its un-ilateral declaration of inde-

Fetching water is a daily

"You can live without

preoccupation all over Groz-

electricity or gas, but not without water," said Zaria Kuduzova, who had come to

Rescue workers carry the body of a victim of a nine-year-old girl reportedly survived the

cords, with several major dis-

asters and a bost of minor

ones notehed up in the last

seven years. The Internation-

al Airline Passengers Asso-

ciation advised its members

in September 1993 to avoid

flying in or out of Colombia.

tion of Fatal Crashes between

1983 and 1992 showed that

Colombia had an aviation

accident rate 20 times higher

than the United States and

The worst incidents in-

cluded the November 1989

bombing by drug traffickers

of an Avianca Airlines, kill-

ing 107 people. Another 137

died when an Avianca jet

crashed near Cucuta Airport

in March 1988 and 132 others

perished when a Boeing own-

ed by SAM, an Avianca sub-

sidiary, slammed into the side

of a mountain in May 1993.

Studies by the Associa-

Colombian DC-9 crash outside Cartagena, crash (AFP photo)

Colombia. Of all 52 passengers, only a

where the plane came down.

As rescue teams paddling

canoes across the lake

brought out the last of the

bodies and flew them by heli-

copter to a makeshift morgue

in Cartagena, Capt. Gomez

said in a radio interview that

investigators bad found

marks gouged into the

ground by the plane near

where the wreckage was disc-

This suggested the pilot

attempted an emergency

landing but crashed into an

embankment at the edge of

the water, he added. Both

Capt. Gomez and Mr. Raad

dismissed as irresponsible

some reports suggesting the

crash was caused by a terror-

ist bomb, saying none of the

evidence supported such an

argument.
Colombia has one of the

thing," she added.

pendence in 1991.

in this city.

fetch water at the artificial

lake on the southern exit

to belp them across the lake,

which is frozen over, but the

"The water isn't good to drink. I only come here for

my two old cows," Daud

Emordayev, 66, told AFP.

His house in a nearby district

was destroyed by a shell a

A few kilometres farther

west, where the bombing

raids on the capital are only a

distant noise, the water situa-

tion is oot yet critical: At

Urus Martane, cars are parked in the bed of the river

Gekhi, which is also frozen

over. Their owners are still

concerned about keeping

Relatives of the dead in

Wednesday's crash lost no

time in hlaming Intercon-

ninental de Aviacion, the Col-

ombian Airline that owned

the plane on doomed Flight

for six hours before it left

for emergency maintenance.

It should never have been allowed to fly," shouted a man at Bogota Airport, who

declined to give his name.

Director Alfonso Ramírez

denied the accusations.

saying the delay was caused

by airport congestion and the

plane was in good condition

despite being 29 years old.

however, suggested that

perhaps it was time for Col-

ombia to look again at scrap-

ping older planes and forcing airlines to renew their fleets.

Radio commentators.

Intercontinental Managing

"That plane was held up

their vehicles clean.

The women get a teenager

from Grozny.

week ago.

Grozny inhabitants brave shelling to fetch water GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Bundled up in an old brown metal trolley are parked in the vicinity, while their owncoat, her head covered with a ers take advantage of the rare red and yellow check beadsouting to exchange news on

the latest districts to be hit by

water, but we don't have any

choice," said a man, who was

filling np his metal cans. A

black rubber tube was fitted

into the pierced pipework two days ago to enable peo-ple to belp themselves.

A few yards away, Zarima

and Roman Kharikhanov,

brother and sister, are mak-

ing their way homewards car-

rying two buckets. Three

days ago a Russian plane

bombed just next to the

spring where they used to fetch their supplies. Since

then they bave preferred to go farther afield.

"Nobody has analysed this

the Russian artillery.

carf. a Russian woman in her seventies struggles with ber two small plastic buckets full of water. Despite the nearby thud of artillery, like hundreds of other inhabitants in the besieged capital of the breakaway Republic of

Chechenya, the old woman

has been out to fetch water at

the only supply point in this district in the south of the city, which has been spared bombing raids so far. From dawn, people start converging on the old underground reservoir in the mid-dle of a muddy field, some of

them coming from more than five kilometres away.

Three old prams and a Investigators hunt for clues to Colombia air crash CARTAGENA, Colombia (AFP) - Investigators sear-ched Friday for clues to explain Wednesday's airfiner crash in which 51 people died, the latest aviation tragedy in a country where drug terror, safety hlunders and guerrilla attacks make flying a high-risk activity.
...Civil Aviation Authority Director Alvaro Raad said technical problems appeared to be the most likely reason

of Cartagena suddenly plunged to the ground and exploded. Only one passenger survived the crash, a nine-yearold girl named Erika Delgado who was recovering in a hospital after suffering multi-

why the DC9 on a flight from

Bogota to the coastal resort

ple fractures and emotional trauma. "The impression we bave so far without making conjectures is that there must have been a fault which was sufficiently serious to prevent the pilot from being able to re-port it," said Captain Estefan Gomez, head of the crash investigation team. "There

Colombian officials invited a team from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to help hut added that until the DC9's "black box" flight and voice recorders were found it would be difficult to make

A local government official erroneously reported Thursday that the flight and voice recorders had been located by navy divers in the lake near the town of Maria La

Tireless Pope makes security men nervous MANILA (R) — Pope John Paol threw himself Saturday into the busiest day so far of his visit to the Philippines which climaxed with an ecsta-

of thousands of people at a youth rally. With events lasting from early morning until late evening, the 74-year-old Pontiff showed no signs of flagging on the third day of an 11-day tour that will take him from the Philippines on to Papua New Guinea, Australia and

tic reception from hundreds

Sri Lanka. . He was clearly delighted with the response he has received in Asia's only mainly Roman Catholic country. although it has given his security men some nervous moments. Exuberant crowds

threatened at one point to

Overwhelm his guards at a

Catholic media awards ceremony in the afternoon. The smiling Pope appeared unconcerned by the pushing and shoving around him. He responded by waving the silver-topped walking stick he has used since a leg operation Pope is used to such alarms.

The Pope himself had earlier veered away from his bodyguards to get nearer to the people on his way into the

'We get nervous every time the Pope tries to get closer to the people," police Major Edmund Cacatian told

The Pontiff appeared to rally in central Manila's Luneta Park to mark the eve

police at up to half a million, exploded in a frenzy of joy

"We are not especially concerned. Nothing has changed in our plans and

The Philippine government refused to disclose details of

his aides. in the prevailing order,

Jordan Times

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Sounding the alarm

THE QUEST for protecting the Jordanian consumer received royal support this week when His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met with the president and members of the Protection of Consumers Society (PCC) and called on them to breathe new life into their efforts to safeguard citizens from contaminated foodstuffs. The Crown Prince's involvement in the programme to protect Jordanians from dangerous foodstuffs took place against the backdrop of greater awareness by the public at large of the inherent dangers of unsafe food and vegetables. Several deputies in the Lower House of Parliament have recently sounded the alarm about the quality of meat that is being sold in the country. The response of the minister of health, Dr. Aref Batayneh, to these charges left a lot to be desired since he merely repeated the official policy line on controlling the quality of imported and locally produced meat without taking the necessary step of offering to investigate in earnest the allegations made by the deputies.

Coming to think of it, neither the Ministry of Health nor the Ministry of Agriculture have reacted in any meaningful way to other charges about contaminated vegetables and fruits. This issue has repeatedly been raised by the public and the mass media dut that has not lessened the dangers inherent in the wrong use of pesticides and insecticides. To the amazement of many Jordanians, some farmers in this country still use internationally outlawed pesticides and insecticides that are known to cause cancer. The fact that the concerned ministers have refrained from refuting these charges to the satisfaction of the public is most disturbing to all of us. We feel it is highly irresponsible of any minister or department not to respond to legitimate public concerns at any given time.

The initiative of Crown Prince Hassan to expand the horizon of PCC and make it more effective comes therefore as no surprise. After all, the society itself needs overhaul and now is the time to invigorate and renew its mandate.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DESPITE THE modest results of the Arab-Israeli-American meeting beld in Washington under U.S. auspices this week, one can still point to certain vital elements included in the final communique, said Al Dustour daily Tuesday. The communique contained an Israeli commitment to halt the confiscation of Arah lands for setting up Jewish settlements and to refrain from funding the construction of any more settlements with state money, said the paper. At the same time, the communique reflected a renewed commitment on the part of the United States to exert more diplomatic efforts to ensure the success of the pace process and to accelerate the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreements, said the daily. What the Arabs want to see is an end to the Israeli siege of the occupied Arab lands, which has increased tension and has caused further deterioration in the living standards of the Arab people, add the paper. It said the Arabs want to see the Israelis taking practical steps to implement the Oslo agreement, which calls for the redeployment of the Israeli forces and arrangements for holding elections in the Arab lands as well as a complete halt to the building of

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'l urged wealthy Jordanians to continute generously to the poor during the holy month of Ramadan, and said that the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), which has experience in handling the donations, should be given a mandate to distribute the aid to the needy groups and families. Badri Al Mulqi suggested that each member of a Muslim family pay half a dinar at the start of Eid Al Fitr with the QAF distributing the collected donations to the needy during the feast. The writer said that this donation should be over and above all other donations, which Muslim offer during the month of Ramadan. Should the contributions amount to great sums, he said, income generating projects ought to be started under QAF supervision to employ the poor and ensure income for their families.

Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

An illusion of peace

I AM writing from Jerusalem. It is the month of Ramadan and all around me is a city in pain. It is my third visit to the city this year, and in some ways it is the most difficult.

city this year, and in some ways it is the most difficult. I have come with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown as part of his mission to promote economic development and the peace process. But one and a half years after the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, there is little evidence of peace or economic progress—especially for the Palestinians.

On this trip, I have met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other ministers of his government. I have met with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and other Palestinian ministers. In additioo, I have met with separate groups of Israeli and Palestinian business and political leaders, and talked with ordinary citizens on both sides.

The "official line" being touted after the Cairo summit is that the "process is back on track" and that there is a "new momentum towards peace." But the reality is quite different.

All that Israelis will talk about is "the terror." From the most liberal and the most conservative Israeli, the message is the same: "Terror must stop for peace to go forward." It is a deeply felt consensus view.

All the Palestinians see is occupation and the terror that accompanies it. In the West Bank, in particular, it is evident that little has changed. The closure of Jerusalem is nearly complete. In some ways, the city has become a "no man's land." It's economy and its spirit are being killed as its ties with the West Bank diminish. Despair has replaced the hope that many felt just one year ago. And many of Jerusalem's young speak of leaving—they say, "there is no life for us here"

In travelling in any direction out of the city you can see the raped hilltops; fresh earth turned over and oew settlements being constructed. There is new building in the established settlements. In so many ways, it is business as

Going into or leaving Gaza, again seems strikingly similar to occupation. It is difficult to see what has

If there is peace, someone forgot to tell the Israelis at the checkpoints or their Palestinian victims. Young men with guns facing grown up men in a line. The young Israelis shouting rudely, giving orders; the older, brooding Palestinians acting nervous and afraid, keeping their anger in. It is a classic portrait of power versus powerlessness. The daily bumiliation of the checkpoint can't belp but create hatred.

Inside Gaza you can see change. There are Palestinians

in uniform and Palestinians in charge. The city is a little cleaner now and there is some building underway. Bot one gets the feeling that Gaza is in the eye of a storm — it is waiting. How long it can wait is difficult to tell.

Take the building, for example. Near the coast in Gaza

City you can see large buildings in various stages of completion, buildings not unlike those being erected in other Arab cities. But no matter what the degree of completion, the buildings wait. There is no infrastructure: no adequate water, electricity, telephone service and, especially, sewage treatment. Real streets in Gaza City are few and far between. Whatever the Israelis did during their 27-year occupation of Gaza, building or paving streets was not one of their priorities. Neither was sewage. One of the most common sights seen while travelling through Gaza City are the enormous pouds that cars must go through, even on most major roads. It is like riding through the park in Washington after a huge rainfall — except this wasn't

rainwater, it was waste water.

The businessmen in Gaza are also waiting for loans, for the right to export their products, for the right to leave the country to seek investment, for material and massive and promised international aid that was to jumpstart their economy and give them the infrastructure they need to

And the young men in Gaza are waiting, too, for jobs, for opportunities, for hope in a better future.

It came away from this trip with the sad realisation than this process is giving peace a bad name. Many people don't even want to hear about peace or talk about it. There is a deep cynicism developing — something that summits and declarations won't cure.

I also came away with the conviction that this cycle of anger and fear, cynicism and despair and violence can be broken; but that would require addressing their root

Peace requires that attitudes change. But for attitudes to change, reality must change first.

When the declaration of "mutual recognition" was signed, Palestinians and Israelis were both ready for such change to occur. But daily life has not changed, and old attitudes are retrenching.

Palestinians remain powerless. Their land continues to be taken from them, the humiliation and control and terror of the occupation remain facts of life. And this powerlessness has produced deformities in the culture: Anger,

despair and cynicism.

Israelis remain in control. But their control is never complete and so they become victims of Palestinian despair and anger. And they, too, are deformed by the resulting

anger, fear and cynicism.

It is interesting even to hear the way Israelis describe the "peace process." They say "we cannot give any more peace unless the terror stops." "Giving peace" means, for them, relinquishing control, surrendering power. This is something masters are always afraid to do for fear the slaves will turn on them to avenge past wounds. And so the Israelis have attempted, from the beginning, to have peace while still maintaining control — seeking to define the limits of

peace every step of the way. At times, the peace process might be better described as dictation and imposition, instead of dialogue and negotiation.

What is equality disturbing is the Israeli refusal to see cause and effect. The Israeli leadership and its supporters appear unable to assume responsibility for the anger and the violence that their skewed relationship with the Palestinians has brought into existence.

In their way of computing reality, it is as if all history begins with each new act of terror. Nothing happened before it, and no one (other than they) has suffered before the victims of this particular act. There is no effort to see the violence in a cycle or to understand why the perpetrators acted as they did or why there are people whose anger and despair bring them to support this or that crime. Hence, in their view, Israelis speak about terror as if it

Hence, in their view, Israelis speak about terror as if it were a mere malignancy, a foreign implant, that has invaded the peace process without a reason — to destroy it. The simplistic solution, in this view, is to "eradicate" or "exterminate" the terror by rounding up or otherwise distinctions its processors.

Of course, it must be granted that there are groups and individuals who seek to destroy the peace process with terror. But if the process were really working, then the danger and despair on which these fanatics prey would evaporate, leaving them isolated in their respective circles. Ignoring that connection causes the Israelis and those who support them to view the elimination of terror in purely military and police terms.

Yet by acting on this view, the Israelis perpetuate acts of collective punishment (its own form of terror) designed to demonstrate their power and to remind the Palestinians of their powerlessness. It is lost on the Israelis that this simply produces more despair and anger, and creates more Palestinian victims who will support desperate acts of striking out against the master — and so the cycle of violence in perpendicted.

violence is perpetuated.

All of this is an old story. It was to have changed with peace and the "mutual recognition of rights." So far, it has

There are so many others things I learned on this visit, so many specific recommendations I will make in an effort to end the cycle and bring real change to the daily lives of the Israeli and Palestinian people.

Israeli and Palestinian people.

But the first and simplest observation I can make is that: Yes, the terror must stop and yes, the process is impeded by the continuation of violence. But for the terror to stop, there must be a change in the daily life of Palestinians. And that requires less Israeli control, less bumiliation, more opportunities and more respect for Palestinians' equal rights as human beings. These are the changes that were hoped for in September of 1993.

These are what peace was to have brought — and peace will not become real until these changes become real.

CIS future hangs in balance after 17th summit

By Brian Killen
Renter

ALMA-ATA — The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), struggling to take joint decisions and hardly implementing them, is splitting into regional economic blocs which could shape the future of the 12-

member grouping.

The 17tb CIS summit, tield in the Kazakh capital on Friday, was trumpeted as another step towards integrating the fractious former Soviet republics it embraces.

But Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's dream of the CIS evolving into a "Eurasian union" which would involve much closer integration is as far from reality as ever. Even the summit's showpiece agreement, promoting peace and stability in the CIS, lacked teeth and was seen by Ukraine as a document strengthening the principles that have torpedoed so many CIS initiatives in the past.

"It is only a call on countries to adhere to some principles in our relations — for example integrity of borders, state sovereignty," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennady Udovenko told reporters. "It does no barm to remind people about these principles every

The CIS, set up on the ashes of the Soviet empire in late 1991, has been largely ineffectual as a successor to the Soviet Union because governments, jealous of their sovereignty, have been onwilling to delegate

powers to it

However, economic pragmatism bas pushed Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus into a customs union which Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin believes could expand.

Another tripartite group, comprisiog Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, met on the fringes of the summit and agreed to strengthen economic ties and build on the "commoo economic space" they set up last year.

The main questinn now is whether these separate regional blocs can unite under the auspices of the Interstate Economic Council, the first supranational CIS body that will have powers to override member governments.

mments. But, if Friday's summit is anything to go by, it will be some time before the acoms of economic coop-

eration take root and grow.

"Some sort of core union emerge from this, but prospects for them seeing eye-to-eye oo key issues are slim," said a Western diplomat observing the meeting:

The Moscow-based CIS
Interstate Economic Council has not even started to
functioo. Russian Deputy
Prime Minister Alexei Bolshakov bas been nominated
to head it, but some states
are wary of Russian dominance and bave not

approved the choice.

Another obvious barrier to economic integration is the different pace of economic reform in the various CIS states, which bave their own separate non-convertible currencies.

The CIS summit, in apparent deference to Russia and despite talking about peace and stability, all but igoored the war io Chechenya.

President Bons Yelisin, who had appeared somewhat weary and unsteady on his feet on his arrival io Alma-Ata, failed to show up at the closing news con-

Some past summits bave lined up all of the heads of state to answer questions. But Mr. Yeltsin was the only one to appear at the previous gathering in Moscow and CIS protocol officials to the host president to face reporters.

Mr. Nazarbayev said Mr. Yeltsio had briefed the other leaders on Chechenya, where thousands have been killed since Russia sent in troops on Dec. 11 to crush armed separatists who had been defying Moscow's leadership for three years.

But the CIS issued no

statement on Chechenya, the latest in a series of ethnic conflicts which inspired the document on "peace and stability."

The memorandum, prop-

The memorandum, proposed by Mr. Nazarbayev, was watered down from the status of a pact. It aims to preserve integrity of frontiers and calls on members to refrain from military, political, economic or other pressure on each other.

pressure on each other.

Differences over other proposals, including joint defence of borders with non-CIS states, will be carried over to the 18th summit in the Belarussian capit-

al Minsk on May 25-26.

Critics ask why Kremlin waited three years on Chechenya

By Jean Raffaelli

Agence France Presse

MOSCOW — Two months into Moscow's military intervention in Chechenya. Russian politicians are still puzzling over why it took the Kremlin three years to move against the Caucasus republic's independence

Above all, questions are being asked as to why the government opted for an exclusively military response to bring the secessionist republic to heel and why it had to choose such a brutal and large-scale operation.

Communists, led by Gennadi Ziyuganov, and democrats behind former refromist premier Yegor Gaidan, have repeatedly said the government should have taken another path to resolve the issue of Chechen independence, proclaimed unilaterally in 1991.

Observers here believe sevetal other solutions were

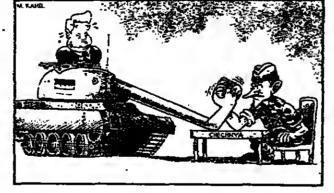
armed intervention.

Alternatives included sitting back and watching popular criticism of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev grow in the face of general anarchy in the republic, as well as sealing off Chechenya and imposing an economic blockade — if necessary

open to Moscow apart from

with military support.

A more cynical solution could bave seen direct action by the PSK security



services, successor of the KGB, to eliminate anti-Moscow Chechen elements. But observers are particularly puzzled by the

three-year wait for action.

Muscovite political analyst Boris Grishchenko said he believed that after proclaiming independence. "Dudayev served the interests of business lohhies linked more or less directly to political milieux in Moscow until last year."

Nationalist deputy Sergei Bahurin also expressed this view when he told AFP in September, that "Mr. Dudayev serves certain milieux in Moscow." However, according to Mr. Grishchenko, "pur-

suing collaboration with Dzhokhar Dudayev was becoming dangerous." Meanwhile, his popularity inside Chechenya was on the
wane, and goods being sold
to Moscow became the object of fierce rivalry be-

tween Mafia-style gangs.
"At the start of 1994, there was no longer anything to pillage, thus nothing left to share out." Mr. Grishchenko said. He added that Mr. Dudayev's overthrow had hy that stage become a possibility.

Other observers pointed to the fact that when Mr. Dudayev declared independence, Russian President Boris Yeltsin was locked in a power struggle with the Moscow parliament which culminated in the bloody stand-off at the legislature in October 1993, Mr. Yeltsin had little scope to reflect on the state

of play in Chechenya.

Russia was then gripped by a crisis on its southern fringe, with the election in January 1994 of Yuri Meshkov as head of the pro-Russian autonomous republic of Crimea in the Ukraine, an event which threatened to scupper Rus-

sian relations with Ukraine.

The crisis between Kiev and Simferopol in the Crimea escalated and threw into question the future of the strategically important Black Sea fleet, based in the Crimea.

The situation calmed down again in July with the election of Leonid Kuchma as Ukrainian president damping nationalist aspirations in the southern and western Ukraine.

It was then, io early August, that Chechen opposition supporters created the Moscow-backed Provisional Council under Umar Avturkhanov. From then on, Russia indirectly became involved in Chechenya, inspiring the opposition to try to overthrow Mr. Dudayev by providing the cooncil with logistical helps.

viding the cooncil with logistical help.
On Nov. 29 last year, with Mr. Dudayev still defiantly hanging on, Moscow decided to send troops in following a meeting of the Russian Security Council.
A further factor which had caused Moscow to wait until December before attacking Chechenya was uncertainty over the fate of the Russian republic of Tatarstan, which was doggedly holding out for a large

degree of autonomy.

But the normalisation of links between Moscow and the Tatar capital of Kazan a year ago allowed Russia to turn its full attention to resolving the problem of Chechenya.

LETTERS

Why people write letters?

To the Editor:

UPON READING some "letters to the Editor" in the Jordan Times, I find it both interesting and frustrating that some Jordanians write to complain about an incident which happened to them in the past. Take, for example, the university student who is criticising her fellow male students for staring at her or making remarks as she passes by them, or the gentlemen who complains about the lack of police officers whom he could find to pay his JD 5 fine, and you will know what I mean.

I believe those types of letters should be addressed to the Arabic newspapers, especially since they are written by Jordanians and addressed basically to other Jordanians. I am not really sure how many University of Jordan students, for instance, read the Jordan Times or whether the various government public relation officers bother to notice readers' comments in your newspaper.

Instead of tackling real issues concerning us, I suggest that writers of such letters are only trying to be ostentations by showing their friends that they can write letters in English and can get their names printed in a newspaper. But by doing that, these people merely giving wrong impression to our foreign guests about our beautiful people and country.

Hussam Deranich

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.





Muslim over nya

JANUARY 15, 1992

int Union, said in a sepaper interview on aday that Islam had a S strengthened a chenya when its people threatened.
But Islam is not particular strong in everyday life at all. Mr. Krag told International Herald arsceller from the

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draft proposal: and detri

Fire movement's political following:

- Commitment to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian land and the attainment of the Palestiaccordance with United

'Saudis massing troops'

(Continued from page 1)

flag. A clash broke out with Yemeni border police, who recovered the post and ripped down the flag.

There was no official Saudi

comment on the incident. Earlier this month Yemen and Saudi Arabia agreed to balt military movements along their disputed border and pull their forces back from the area, following a series of clashes.

Tension has remained high between the two countries, whose relations deteriorated during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis when Riyadh accused Sanaa of supporting Baghdad.

In Yemen's two-month civil war last year, Sanaa accused Riyadh of aiding southern Yemeni forces in their bid to break away from the north.

Yemen claims sovereignty over three Sandi provinces— Najran, Jizan and Assir assigned to the kingdom under a treaty signed in 1934. Sansa argues that the treaty expired in September 1992 and is opposed to renewing

The Yemeni Al Thawra weekly reported on Friday several people were killed or wounded in "wide-scale" clashes on Wednesday in which several Saudi troops

were captured. It said Saudi warplanes launched air raids on Yemeni positions.

There was no confirmation of the report by the weekly, the monthpiece of the opposition Yemen Socialist Party (YSP).

Official Yemeni sources had said a number of Yemeni soldiers were injured in a clash on Tuesday with a Saudi force that penetrated Yemeni territory.

An official Yemeni source on Friday denied a report in the Lebanese Al Anwar paper saying that Sanaa had rushed troops to the border and that Yemeni forces held a Saudi post inside Saudi territory.

"There is no truth whatsoever in this report... there are no Yemeni troops massed on the border," he said.

Al Anwar said telephone contacts took place between King Fahd and a number of Arab leaders on Thursday and that Saudi ambassadors were briefed on the massing

of Yemeni troops.
The official Saudi Press Agency said King Fahd talked on Thursday with President Assad and President Mubarak and discussed "political and security developments on the Arab and international arena.'

Chechens hold onto palace

(Continued from page 1)

of Russia, Mr. Clinton said "the violence must end." "Lecal again on all the parties to stop spilling blood and start making peace," he

Grozny has been subjected to air raids as well as relentless artillery bombardment, with Minutka Square, a ral-lying point for Chechen combatants in the south of the city, hit hy about a dozen bombs which killed at least three people and injured five more on Saturday, photographer on the scene said.

But victory was still not in sight for the Russians, more than a month after they were sent to put down the three-year-old rehellion in the secessionist republic.

Jerusalem should not cause disunity (Continued from page 1)

over this issue since the Kingdom has oo ambitions or objectives other than protectioo of the Arab and Islamic identity of the Holy City," he

"Participation in the OIC (Jerusalem Committee's) meeting manifests Jordan's" determination to present its position with regard to their status of the Holy City," Mr.

Mbeideen said. Stressing that Jordan seeks to safeguard the holy shrines Mr. Mbeideen recalled tha Jordan bad been acting as guardian of these places over the past five decades and undertook many measures, including the restoration of the Dome of the Rock Mosque, in order to achieve that

The Jerusalem Committee will give attention to efforts being made at all levels to ensure Arab sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem, to protect its Islamic character and to secure the rights of all followers of the monotheistic religions, Mr. Mbeideen said.

The Jerusalem Committee, which was formed by OIC in implementing resolutions passed by OIC and other international organisations which support OIC's stand, Mr. Mbeideen noted.

Movement takes shape

tlements has also boosted efforts to organise Palesti-

nian ranks. Dr. Abdul Shafi's call coincided with parallel, albeit uneoordinated. efforts to revive the PLO. The new initiative to re-

vive the PLO is led by Palestinian Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi, who met with Palestinian opposition groups in Damascus last week.

Mr. Kaddoumi, a member of the Fatch Central Committee, even met with Khaled Al Fahoum, leader of the National Salvation Front, and Ahmad Jibril of the Popular Front for the Liberatioo of Palestine General Command (PFLP-GC), who were accused in the past of attempting to create an alternative orga-

nisation to the PLO. According to sources from the opposition Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Mr. Kaddoumi has pledged to join in the call for the

suspending the peace talks. But other Palestinian sources are not optimistic about the success of these efforts, especially that most of the PLO leadership institutions have been defunct since PLO leader Yasser Arafat moved to the

Gaza Strip last July. Following are excerpts from Dr. Abdul Shafi's

. A movement for building democracy is needed... to practise its role initially among the people in the occupied ter-

identity is based on the

dent identity.

Nations resolutions.

- The movement reiterates the unity of the Palestinian people and that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the symbol

- The movement considers the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Palestiman lands - the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank including East Jerusalem — and settlement construction as a blatant aggression condemned by the United Nations Security Conncil resolutions. They are serious obstacles

to peace in the region.

The movement is committed to the peace initiative launched by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers, on Nov. 15, 1988, and to Palestinian refugees' rights according to United Nations Resolu-

tion 194.

— The movement rejects any Israeli territorial claims in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, and considers the construction and settlement of Israelis in that area illegal and in total contravention of the requirements of peace.

- The movement considers the continuation of Israeli claims as a flagrant call for violence and a distortion of the concept of peace. The movement holds Israel responsible for the violence that results as a consequence of the Israeli policies — whether it is Palestinian or Israeli vio-

lence. - On the basis of the commitments meotioned above the Movement for Democracy is open for all individuals who believe and adhere to democracy and work to disseminate democratic values and practices in the Palestinian society. The movement is not ready to compromise its indepen-

of the "historic" peace accord in September 1993, the bloodiest toll by far since the start of the Arab intifada, or uprising, in late 1987.

El Khader against the widening of the settlement of Ephrat (AFP photo)

Last week's dead, 10 Palestinians and one Israeli, sustain the ratio of the intifada. But over recent months it has been much more balanced. That fact is chilling in a country obsessed by threat and survival.

Over the past 15 months of "peace", Islamist groups like Hamas and others opposed to the accord have hit civilian and security force targets more efficiently than ever before. Now even Mr. Arafat's raggedy police force seems to be

joining in. Last week's corpses inclode three Palestinian policemen, killed by Israeli troops at Beit Hanoun inside the northern border of the autonomous Gaza Strip. The army says categorically that the police fired first; the Palestinians insist that they did oot fire at all.

As ever, what is believed is much more important than what can be proved. The conventional wisdom in Gaza today is that Israel deliberately lannebed a lethal attack to divert attention from its own obstruction of the peace process. For an increasing onmber of Israelis, the affray at Beit

Hanoun is evidence of the essential untrustworthiness of Mr. Arafat and the PLO. Instead of ocurralising the militant threat, the argument runs, self-rule has dramatically increased it.

There have been signs for some time that the government and security forces are losing patience with the .Palestinians' failure to deliver on security. Last autumo, in the wake of the Islamist suicide bombing of a hus in Tel Aviv, which daimed more than 20 Israeb lives, the

gloves came off. At least one Islamist activist was assassinated in Gaza, and undercover operations were stepped up. Last week brought

dramatic evidence of the oew, oo-nonscose approach. On Monday, bours before the Beit Hanoun shooting, troops intercepted and shot dead three Hamas militants in two separate incidents in the West Bank. Four activists of the Popular Front were cornered in Ramallah also and, as the military analysts

say, "eliminated".

There should be nothing inevitable about the response, but there always is a response. Recently, a woman settler died when her car was attacked by gunmen oear Ramallah. Her hrother-in-law was wounded. Two small girls were in the vehicle. Neither was burt.

Palestinian youths clash with an Israeli military police unit after the Friday noon prayer as they were prevented from bolding a demonstration in the Arab village of

Self-rule deal could die of irrelevance

With continuing violence and stalemate over Jewish settlements,

Rabin may have run out of ideas, Derek Brown in Jerusalem writes

The latest attack bas hrutally underlined the government's dilemma over Jewish colonisation of the West Bank, an issue which has suddenly jumped to the top of the "peace" agenda after months of muted Palestinian grumbling and casual Israeli reassurances.

The government is adamant that settlements can be discussed only when the time comes to negotiate a final-status agreement. In the meantime, it says, there will be no new public sector building, and no new settlements.

The reality is that settlements are growing, Jews are moving into the West Bank, land is being confiscated, and new roads are being constructed. All of this has gone on behind a smokescreen of legalistic guff about "state" land, private sector activity, security considerations, existing permits, and so on. What matters are facts on the ground, and those facts are humiliating for West Bank Palestinians.

After a recent violent clash on the site of yet another settlement expansion near Bethlehem, and the government's subsequent attempt at "com-promise" (the site was moved and building is going ahead). Palestinians and

settlers are talking themselves into a potentially

ugly new confrontation. Demonstrations, hacked by peace groups and sec-tions of the Israeli left, were planned at several building sites. In response, the more militant settlers are talking of taking defence into their own bands, and bitterly accusing the government of

giving in to violence. (Nothing about this is comie, hat there have been surreal moments. Such as Eliakim Ha'etzni, one of the shriller settlers from the ultra-right community of Kiryat Arba, complaining about Palestinians "grabbing our land".)

Against this hackground of coofrontation, it is perhaps unsurprising that there has been little prog-ress on the next scheduled phase of the peace process: pulling Israeli troops out of Arab areas and extending self-rule into the occupied West Bank as a prelude to Palestinian elections. But therein lies the greatest danger of all, that without forward momentum the accord will atrophy and die of sheer irrelevance.

"We have moved from the siege of Beirut to the seige of Gaza," said the Palestinian National Authority spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudeina, last week. 'We expected Israel to redeploy its troops; instead it has redeployed its settlers.". Mr. Rudeina belongs to the vast majority of Palestinians who detect a plot, or several concurrent plots, in what has bappened in the past half-year of political stalemate and deteriorating

security. Much more plausible, however, is the growing view that the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, has simply run out of options, perhaps even of ideas. Politically, his survival and that of his Labour Party depend on the success of the peace process. But equally, he stands or falls on the be-all and end-all

issue: security. Any concession to the Palestinians, for example on the release of the 5,000 or more prisoners still in Israeli jails, will be interpreted by the right as weakness, and an incitement to more violence. But if he offers nothing to the PLO and instead appeases the right with harsher security, Mr. Arafat could lose his already crumbling popular

In a system dominated by news bulletins - what in Northern Ireland used to be called the politics of the latest atrocity - it seems an age since Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat stood side by side in Stockholm to receive the Nobel peace prize.

The Guardian

Pakistan's mighty Khan

LAHORE - HE is mobbed wherever he goes. People want to touch him. Schoolchildren happily line up to give him their pocket money, women fling their jewellery at him, small traders and businessmen have raised billions of rupees for his cause. His rallies get bigger and more stirring by the day. Rousing slogans proclaim him as the next prime minister of Pakistan.

IT HAS been a dreadful

week for the Israeli govern-

ment and for the peace accord with the Palesti-nians. Eleven lives have

been taken, and trust be-

tween the so-called peace

partners is as low as it has been — possibly as low as it

can get without the whole

The gloom is not just the

product of a particularly

grim week, but of the

accumulated disillusion on

both sides with an arrange-

ment which has promised

much and delivered danger-

Some of the Palestinians

have freedom of a sort, but

it is the freedom of the

ghetto. Within the self-rule

enclaves of Jericho and the

Gaza Strip, their borders

guarded by Israeli troops,

poverty is increasing. In the

rest of the West Bank, still

under military occupation,

there is burning resentment

about the remorseless ex-

pansion of Jewish settle-

From the other side of

the 1967 border, the view is

not better. Rightwing

Israelis were appalled by

the very idea of peace with

Yasser Arafat's Palestine

Liberation Organisatioo

(PLO). Even liberals were

apprehensive. Now every-

one is sated with the almost

daily reports of death.

More than 100 Israelis have

been killed since the signing

ously little.

ments.

process disintegrating.

He is Imran Khan, a former captain of Pakistan's cricket team, who shot to glory after Pakistan won cricket's World Cup in 1992. These days Mr. Khan is raising money for a cancer hospital for the poor in memory of his mother, who died of the disease. More worryingly for Pakistan's political leaders, the prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, and the opposition's Nawaz Sharif, he has become a

Until recently, the Oxford-educated Mr. Khan wore Armani suits, dated London socialites and rubbed shoulders with royalty and rock stars. Now he has turned his back on all that. Clad in traditional Pakistan shalwar kameez, he claims the West is immoral, depraved, bypocritical and imperialistic. He accuses Pakistani ruling elites of being heartless and corrupt. There is talk of forming a welfare party or pressure

group to address the plight

of the "wretched of the

earth".

To Pakistanis the new Imran Khan is noble (he comes from a noble line of Pathaos), truthful (he admitted that he had once "tampered" with the ball in a county cricket match). selfiess (cancer hospital for the poor), independent (he is critical of all politicians and parties) and homespun (the refuses to wear Western clothes and frowns on Western music). He scolds upper class children for aspiring to become "brown sahibs." He insists that his hospital will not become dependent on handouts from the rich or the powerful. His populist rhetoric evokes standing ovations across the country.

Mr. Khan's stardom springs partly from people's discontent with Pakistan's corrupt political leadership. It also reflects strong undercurrents of anti-Western feeling among many sections of state and society. How has this come about?

Since Pakistan reverted to democracy in 1988, the country has been plagued by recurring constitutional crises, bitter palace intrigues and acute political instability. Five governments

have come and gone, three elections have taken place. Every regime, at national and state level, has faced charges of corruption, embezziement and plunder. The same landed elites which propped up military regimes in the past now hog the power under democracy.

Benazir Bhutto has turned out to be a disappointment. Jobs are harder to find, inflation is soaring (over 20 per cent onofficially), law and order has rapidly deteriorated and sectarianism (financed by Saudi Arabia and Iran) is rife. Ethnic conflict has paralysed the country's largest industrial city, Karaebi, where more than 800 people (including 70 policemen) were killed by terrorists in 1994.

The economy is slack. For the third year running,

growth is expected to be lower than the 6 per cent average for the 1980s. Many industries, including cotton (the country's top foreign-exchange carner) and sugar, are in had shape. Since March, the Karachi Stock Exchange index has declined 727 points to 1936 points in December.

The country is steadily drifting into a pro-Islam, anti-West mood. Pakistanis felt betrayed when the United States, a staunch ally for over four decades, cut off economic and military aid in 1990 in retaliation for Pakistan's refusal to abandoo its nuclear programme. Lack of Western support for the cause of Muslims in Kashmir and Bosnia is seen as part of the West's "new crusade against Islam," In this atmosphere of de-

spair and drift many people find themselves yearning for a saviour to provide

security, stability and selfrespect. Can the born-again Muslim Imran Khan take on this role? For the moment, Mr. Khan is insisting that he is not interested in politics because he finds it 'contemptible". But he admits that General Hamid Gul is his mentor and marde e momin (the rightly guided).

General Gul was head of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence agency when the Afghan war was at its peak. He is an aggressive self proclaimed "Islamic visionary" who has been touring the country exhorting people to demand the liberation of Kashmir by force from India. The danger to Pakistan is that the "mighty Khan" (as he is fondly called) might become a pawn in the hands of such demagogues.

The Economist.

Clinton touts economic record

WASHINGTON (AFP) -President Bill Clinton turned his attention Monday from legislative battles and attacks against his latest cabinet nominee to his rosier record on the economic front.

This economic report is an important milestone for me. It measures our success in fulfilling the mission that I brought to this presidency, Mr. Clinton said in an Oval Office ceremony releasing his immal report on the state of

the economy to Congress. "I ran for this office to help restore the American dream and to guarantee its availability for all Americans into the 21st century." he said, noting the report showed strong growth, low inflation and a widening employment base.

Mr. Clintoo also announced a 90 cent raise in the \$4.25 per hour minimum wage over two years, fulfilling the pledge he made after his party's defeat in November legislative elections to try to give blue collar workers a share of the economic recov-

The shift in focus to the economy comes as Mr. Clinton is embroiled in a battle over changes the Republicancontrolled Congress wants to make in his cherished crime bill and a volatile debate over his surgeon general nominee, Henry Foster.

"The president is doing a lot of things that are related to promoting America's economic interest both here at House spokesman Michael McCurry said earlier.

But the administration's economic policies and the proposed wage hike are also under fire.

Republicans in Congress have vowed to vote down the minimum wage increase and have complained that Mr. Clinton's \$1.61 trillioo budget for fiscal 1996 does not contain enough spending

Mr. Clinton defended his financial plan, challenging Republicans to match his deficit cutting efforts.

"Now they're in the majority, it's their turn," he said.
"If they don't like my budget,
let's see what theirs is.

would make the deficit big-

The president spent the day closeted with business leaders and state treasurers to discuss the countries finances and held his first meeting of the President's Export Council.

The panel, which consists of 28 private sector business leaders, lawmakers and White House officials, advises the president on export policy.

"I think it's one of the signature elements of this administration that we base our fight for increasing exports abroad in the cootext of our overall foreign policy,' Mr. McCurry said.

1992 parallels seen

Sterling slumps to two-year lows

LONDON (R) — Sterling slumped to its lowest against the mark for two years Tuesday amid concern about inflation, slowing growth and Prime Minister John Major's political problems.

Some analysts said there could be a rerun of the economic and market conditions that culminated on "hlack Wednesday" in 1992 when the pound crashed out of the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM) because of a conflict of government

The 1992 crisis stemmed from the fundamental conflict between the low level of interest rates needed to dig the economy out of its longest recession since the 1930s and the high level needed to keep sterling up and within its ERM hands.

Now. Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke faces a similar dilemma with an election looking before

Sri Lankan premier to

'We are seeing the same set of conditions now that we saw around hlack Wednesday." said Nick Parsons. head of treasury advisory group at Canadian bank CIBC Wood Gundy.

"We are seeing an equally fundamental conflict between the level of growth that is necessary for Clarke to hit his inflation target and the level of growth that is recessary for the government to be reelected," Mr. Parsons

Sterling plunged more than 18 per cent in the aftermath of the 1992 crisis to an alltime low of 2.3147 marks. and this level is in sight again after the pound dropped below its 1994 floor of 2.3710 marks. Around midday Tuesday it was trading at 2.3640 marks.

There is also the same element of the market targetting certain levels, analysts said.

1994 low just as the pound's ERM floor of 2.7780 marks was on black Wednesday. The next target will obviously be the all-time low.

Mr. Clarke is aiming at a core inflation rate of 2.5 per cent or below by the time of the next election but rising prices at the factory gate call this into question. January's core inflation index is due to be published Wednesday and is forecast by analysts at 2.8 per cent, well ahove the chancellor's target.

Meanwhile, growth is slowing, an industry survey Tuesday showing flat consumer demand and figures showing a nine per cent drop in new construction orders in the last three months only served to hammer the pound lower.

Since becoming chancellor in mid-1993, Mr. Clarke has had an easy ride with the pound's devaluation prompting a surge in exports and pushing growth to levels not seen sioce the boom of the late 1980s. He took over from Norman Lamont who was basically sacked because of the hlack Wednesday deba-

But this is fast becoming Mr. Clarke's first real test, analysts said. Last year he had it easy, pushing up rates to stem inflation when the economy was growing strongly, but now the question is whether he has the nerve to increase rates again given the clear evidence of economic

This dilemma could spell the end of the cosy rela-tionship between Mr. Clarke and Bank of England Gov-ernor "steady" Eddie George, a well-known infla-tion hawk. A bank/treasury split would hit confidence hard, particularly that of overseas investors, and would send the pound reeling, analysts said.

China high on list as OECD widens work on Asian economies

PARIS (AFP) - The OECD cooperation with the fastis to work over the next few months on building bridges between its industrial members and other present and future major players in the world economy, with China high on the list, OECD

sources said. The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperati-son and Development (OECD), criticised by the United States and some other non-European members last year for its alleged "Eurocentricism," is also taking a special interest in India, another potential future eco-

nomic giant.
At the same time, it is further upgradiog the "dia-logue" it began in 1989 with the Dynamic Asian Economies (DAEs), expanded in 1993 to include key Latin American countries.

The increased emphasis on China was reconfirmed last June when the organisation's annual ministerial meeting decided the OECD should continue to hroaden its knowledge and understanding" of China and explore the possibilities of dialogue and has as yet been made as to

growing economy.

Two events with a direct bering on trade and economic reltions with China highlights a tight schedule of meetings. workshops and seminars on oon-memher economies planned over the next three months by the OECD or its research affiliate, the OECD Development Centre.

First, the OECD secretariat's finance and trade directorates have prepared the ground for an informal workshop on "Trade and in-vestment linkages with China," scheduled to be held in Paris on March 2-3.

Second, the Development Centre hopes to organise, together with a Chinese institution, a meeting in Beijing towards the end of April to review progress made in con-verting China's military iodustry into commercial production units turning out goods for civilian use.

In addition, a high-leve OECD mission may visit China within the foreseeable future, although OECD officials say no formal decision

the timing.

The idea of such a trip by a team of top OECD officials was proposed when the OECD countries held a highlevel meeting in Tokyo last October with the countries known in OECD jargon as the Dynamic Non-Member Economies (DNMEs), and won the support of Staffan Sohlman, the Swedish diplomat who was acting as OECD

secretary general at the time.

The March 2-3 meeting in Paris, which may be attended by a Chinese team although this has still to be confirmed, will focus in particular on Chinese policies on trade and foreign direct investment

The event coincides with a continuing trade row between Beijing and Washing-ton and an ongoing dispute over China's bid to become a founder member of the new World Trade Organisatioo (WTO).

The planned Beijing meeting on Chinese military in-dustry cooversion will be orgnaised jointly by the De-velopment Centre and the

Chinese Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence (COSTIND). The talks will be based on a

study of Chinese enterprises carried out on the basis of previously unpublished material, sources at the centre

The Chinese process has had some success but needs to go further and will require cooperation with foreign partners, notably at the levels of finance and technology, according to these

Participants will be able to compare China's experience with that of Russia, which has been less successful. Russian officials are expected to attend along with teams from international bodies such as the World Bank, the same sources said.

On March 6-7, the Development Centre will cosponsor with India's Centre for Policy research a meeting in New Delhi on the Indian experience in policy reforms to boost structural change and competitiveness.

Iraq hikes travel tax

rate, compared with \$62 previously, the daily Al Jumo-

It is the second hike in the travel tax since it was first imposed in May 1993 at a level of 15,000 dinars (\$23). A

The dinar is worth \$3,2 at the official rate, but the greenback is traded for 600 dinars in hanks and 650 dinars

The four-year U.N. embargo has triggered rampant inflation and deprived Iraq of its oil income, which used to account for more than 90 per cent of its overall revenoes.

Tourism earns India \$1.6b

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqis wanting to travel abroad must pay a tax of 100,000 dinars, or \$153 at the unofficial houriya reported here Tuesday. Iraqis aged under 18 pay 60,000 dinars (\$92) in tax, the

paper said, quoting an official at the General Directorate of

few months later it was raised to 40,000 dinars (\$62). The average monthly salary in Iraq is about 3,000 dinars.

The tax is aimed at halting devaluation of the Iraqi dinar hy reducing the demand for dollars provoked by the foreign

on the parallel market.

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A record 1.8 million tourists visited India last year despite a plague epidemic in September which led to many countries suspending air and sea links, the government has said. A record number of 220,000 tourists visited the country in December alone and total earnings for 1994 were \$1.6 hillion, u climb of 11.6 per cent over the previous year when 1.7 million tourists visited India. "The upsurge in tourist arrivals was mainly due to the concerted efforts made by the department of tourism, state governments, and the travel, trade and hotel industry," the statement said.

Pakistan to complete privatisation of industrial units this year

fight against privatisation COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike condemned the World Bank's privatisation prescriptions and publicly opposed the sale of profit-making state enterprises, a state-run daily reanaike opposed in principle the privatisation of any public commercial venture and declared that the World Bank was advising the government to privatise "not with any love for Sri Lanka," the evening Observer said. The newspaper said the premier pledged to fight in parliament against privatisation, a policy strongly advocated by her

daughter, President Chandrika Kumaratunga. Ms. Kumaratunga in her maiden policy statement to parliament on Jan. 6 announced a sweeping privatisation programme aimed at selling off key state-run service, including aviation, transport and insurance. She said her new government would also end the state monopoly on power generation and hand over infrastructure development projects to the private sector.

In sharp contrast to her daughter's policy, Mr. Ban-daranaike recalled how she resisted pressure from the World Bank and nationalised petroleum distribution run by foreign multinationals in the 1960s. "The (state-run) Pctroleum Corp. has now be-come a leading profit-making institution in the country, Ms. Bandaranaike said.

ramme, officials say. So far 94 out of 118 sector factories and corporations have been put up for auction and the remaining 25 units will be offered in the oear future, Privatisatioo Commission Chairman Naveed Qamar told AFP.

In addition to automobile. cement, fertilizer and chewill also sell two thermalpower generation plants for the first time, the officials

Pakistani government plans to sell all state-owned industrial plants this year to complete its privatisation prog-

mical plants the government

The privatisation includes hoth total dislovestment

case of large-scale manufacturing and services.

About 70 public-sector uncess was initiated in 1988 under theo Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Privatisation went into high gear during the term of premier Nawaz Sharif, now an opp sition leader, during his 1990-93 stint in office. However, the privatisation drive has been a focus of controversy, both now and

when Mr. Sharif was in pow-Both sides have accused each other of committing irregularities. In some cases

KARACHI (AFP) — The through open bidding and trade-union activists went to Pakistani government plans partial disinvestment in the the court but their pleas for stopping privatisation have been rejected.

The Bhutto government its, including two banks, have last mooth arrested for chairman of the Privatisation Commission, retired general Saeed Qadir, along with Mian Riaz Shafi, chairman of plastic-pipe maker Pakistan PVC, who bought one of the

The arrest of the Pakistan PVC chief angered the business community, which threatened to boycott the privatisation if he were not re-

The business people have also expressed concern over the "slow" pace of privatisa-

THE BETTER HALF

Ms. Bhutto, who is again prime minister, has pledged full accountability in privatisation and reconstituted the Privatisation Commission in assuming office.

The goveromeot has moved to privatise the telecommunications network. which has assets of more than \$9 billion. Telecommunications services for sensitive institutions such as the army are to remain in state control

About 12 per cent of the shares of Pakistan Telecommuoication Corporation (PTC) have been sold to the pohlie io the form of

By Glasbergen

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon of a kind of a kind 6 Snoul 10 City in England 14 Was wasning 15 Cote d'— 16 Repeat 17 Concerning 18 Twisters 20 Tropical cyclor 22 — cod doctrine Crisks 40 BM 19 Organic compounds 21 — de-sac 24 Hubble-bubble 25 Cheesman .6 Opposite of aweather 27 Attempt 28 Wee one 29 Winheldon winner, once 31 Overcast 32 Lanyer: abbr. 33 Burrow 34 Asian land 35 Give out enowstams 57 Song by Irving Berlin 59 Specialized 1 Persian title 2 Barmed 3 Fragrance 4 Decent 5 Total 6 Port in Brazil 7 Pure air 8 Conlident 8 Sea bird

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Discuss with allies how mutual projects can be improved. Try to understand better what they have on their minds. Sit down this evening and write to those who have

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Keep busy with financial affairs that are important to your welfare now. Listen to what a professional has to say that will be helpful to you and reflect on it this evening. GEMINI: (May 2t to June 2t) State your aims to the right people today and bring forth from them the assistance you want that will make you a more successful person.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are able to handle those personal matters today with relative ease provided your start on them early. An attachment is most affectionate this evening. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Concentrate on social activities this PM and plan for future events. Your private affairs need to be taken care of without delay. Show that you are an interesting and energetic

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) See what you can do to have a more pleasing image, both in private and public life. Improve your career via the civic platform. Mix tonight with people of all types and make a new friend.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) New conditions are at work that will give you an opportunity for greater benefits and favours than you have had in a long time. This evening is good for both private and public activities

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) There are responsibilities that must be handled immediately or you get into deeper hot water latter on. Once these are completed much happiness with mate is SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can work out deals now for longtime agreements with associates. First let them state their views and then you can say your piece. Go out for dinner

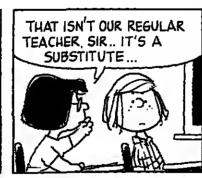
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can make this a productive and happy day provided that you first come to a meeting of the minds with fellow associates. Later, consult with one who can help you with health matters.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You desire entertainment which is all right provided you get some tasks out of the way first. Later, use your creative talent with vim and vigor. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If you show your willingness to help solve problems at home today, much harmony can result by early evening. Plan how to get that project in the business world rolling.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst - Onyx

Peanuts







Andy Capp





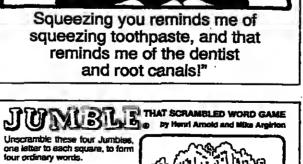


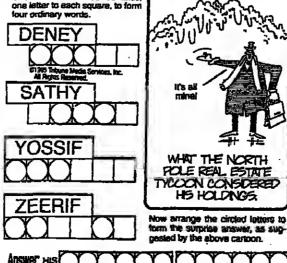
Mutten' Jeff











JUSTIDIES: BATON FAMED SLOUCH BOILED What was the boss' relationship wi

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from the Arabic press

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ONDON (AFF) Serias Mae (AFF) Severa-old music proteins of said to be described fields. Since of said to be described for its sail in a state of the cause the violin has be excause the violin has be in charge playing in har indicated to it had been in an ingapote-born daught ingapote-bor of lottery's first prize

generation and has been generation and has been acclaimed has been assisted music, with a special music, with a sources, JD 50,000, which represents half of the been picked the from the been actional lottery, went to an Egyptian worker. The General Umon of Voluntary on the been sources at the family's to an Egyptian worker. The General Umon of Voluntary on the been sources which issues the ondon home in the to Societies which issues the monthly lottery is still awaitieves had known processing the prize to come and ignored a host of the forward and show the ticket.

Rumours say the co-winner could be another Egyptian Said the violin was who might have left the country (Jordan Times).

ecord-breaking ** Frozen chicken with a Feb. 15 expiry date will be distributed to consumers this Nureyev item week at 800 fils per kilogramme. Chicken was selling pre-EW YORK (R) _ wiously at JD 1.160 a kilogwhee dancer Red ramme (Al Aswaq). revev's collection of p

mes. jewellery an and was The Industrial Cities shangs from his New Ye. Corporation considers estabinerted more than; lishing a new industrial city in 2107. breaking space, Karak in cooperation with Mo'ta University. The project will be financed by the Japanese aid to the Kingdom (Al Dustour).

\$0.250π s most presign ## The privatisation of the Jordan Electricity Authority packed house that has been postponed until mided emotionally to March 1995. The privatisation was scheduled to begin this month (Sawt Al Sbaab).

netter oak hed and le wat The oil tanker Jordan n grass chandeler. he bad purchased to import oil me from wound there from Yemen during the Gulf Fid and bid fermion crisis is to be sold. The tankd Christopher hig er, which has been used for wire and Christial many years to ship oil from "The entraording Yemen and was leased to an with are a tributate international oil transport? that was Nurs, company, carries a JD 2.5 r whose collection of million price tag (Sawt Al d hus artistic passons Shaab).

: for the dramate b prives were set in the Jordan Export Development and Trade Centres Corporation received 65 invita-Reynolds hante tions to participate in local and international fairs during

and international fairs during 1995 (Al Aswaq).

Selection Fuselis & Electrical power generated Fuselis & Act Electrical power generated last year was 4,676 kilowatt/hour, compared to 4,389 kilowatt/hour in 1993, micha Milron's Pre including electric power at a second giveo to Syria in each of these years. As such, the growth io the power generated for local usage was 7.7 per ceot. The peak load reached 794 mega-Sass (0.0 The l watts in 1994, compared to 717 megawatts in 1993 (Al Shaa'b).

Based on an approval from the Ministry of Labour, an association Venetian roccos electrical and electronic 9, 1995. The founders are calling on all interested traders to attend ers to attend a meeting at the Amman Chamber of Com-merce on Tuesday (Jan. 17, at 4 p.m.) (Al Ra'i).

me their study demanded the payment of a plus direction direction

name for the Irbid District Electricity Company decided to give all the workers a JD 10 personal was we workers a JD 10 personal allowance a month starting this month. The workers had their salaries their salaries and the other hattenberg allowances and the other The log allowances increased last 5KG is a fune (Al Dustour).

with the set The Jordan Petroleum arith the set The Lordan Petroleum arithment amounted a tender for the supply of 100,000 con a supply of 100,000 con amounced a tender for the supply of 100,000 gas cylinders lement offers is Feb. 26, 1995 (Al Ra'i).

more like is Civil Aviation Authority amounts to ID 5.5 million.

Capital spending was 91.6 per Capital spending was 91.6 per

elevision contraction of

bonds lose glitter

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese treasury bonds - the stars of the country's finaocial recovery in 1993 and 1994 - are losing their glitter in 1995.

Weekly subscriptions to the high-interest bonds. which sometimes topped 300 billion Lebanese liras (\$180 million) in 1994, have slumped as low as 64 billion (\$39 million) this year according to central bank fi-

The bank now faces weekly deficits of new sobscriptions against maturities of up to 70 billion lira (\$42 million),

financial sources say.

Since treasury bonds are the main investment instrument in Lebanese liras their popularity drop has sharply reduced the interest of Lebanese in holding onto the local currency.
In a reversal of last year's

trend, wheo investors lored by 20 per cent interest rates and a steadily appreciating pound sold hoarded dollars to buy treasury bonds, Lebanese are now banging onto their dollars or even

buying more. The bonds, which have been the government's main instrument for financing huge budget deficit caused by ambitious reconstruction speoding, cootribured to an inflow of foreign capital.

The inflow helped the Lebanese lira appreciate against the dollar in 1993 by more than seven per cent and by oearly four per ceot in 1994, in what many hankers see as the main achievement of billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri.

Bot dealers say the

ing dollars to boy pounds.
"There are no fresh sellers of dollars in the market and there is commercial demand for dollars," said Talai Abou Zaki, foreign exchange manager at Bank of Beirut and

the Arab countries. "There is a net tendency to buy dollars, though not too big amounts. The central bank is selling dollars indirectly through other banks," he said.

Beirut hankers and financial sources plot the decline of the Lebanese treasury bond and concerns about the lira to two factors. In the wake of Lebanon's

successful Eurobond issue of \$400 million, monetary authorities last October let lira rates fall to help reduce the treasury's snowballing debt servicing burden caused hy the massive treasury bond issues.

Rates crashed in November to 12.37 per cent for three-month hills and 14.86 for two-year bills, coinciding with a worldwide rise in U.S. dollar rates. A 15-point spread between dollar and Lebanese lira rates suddenly narrowed drastically.

"When the gap between the dollar and local currency rates shrank to four per cent, people realised it's not worth taking the risk (to be in Lebanese liras)," a financial

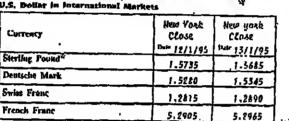
That feeling was rammed home in December by a sudden drop in political confidence when Premier Hariri, architect of Lebanon's reconstruction, said he was resigning because opponents were blocking his projects.

5.2965

98.55

1,2340

Jordan Times Financial Markets. Cairo Amman Bank



48.67

1.2380

Farrepean Carreny Unit European Dynning & 8:00 HJEL GMT

Impanese Yes

Eurocurrency Interest Re	Date: 13/1/1995			
Currency	1 MIN	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5,50	6.00	6.50	7.06
Sterling Pound	5.75	6.75	6.68	7,25
Drutache Mark	4.68	4.61	5.06	5,56
Swin Franc	5.43	5.75	4.00	4.37
French Franc	5.37	5.75	6.25	6.75
Јарвиеве Усп	2.12	2.25	2.51	2.50
European Currency Unil	5.81	6.12	6.50	1.00

recious i	Metals			Date: /3	/1/1995
Metal	USD/Ox	JINGm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	379.15	T,50	Stiver	4,82	0.11

Date: 14/1/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Daller	0.6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1-0925	1.0980
Deutsche Murk	0.4539	0.4562
Swiss Franc	0.5402	0.5429
French Franc	0.1315	0.1322
Inpusese Yen ^a	0.7061	0.7096
Jutch Guilder	0.4049	0.4069
Swedish Kronn	*****	
ralian Lire*	0.0432	0.0434
heigian Franc	744444	******

Other Currenties	Dates: 14/1/1995		
Ситевсу	Bid	Offer.	
Bahrsini Digar	1.2350	1.8450	
Lebanese Lira*	0.041000	0.042180	
Saudi Riyal	0.1857	0.1268	
Kowalil Dinar	2.3150	2.3650	
Quint Riyal	0,1900	0.1915	
Egyption Found	0.2000	0.2140	
Opment Riyal	1.7980	1.8100	
UAE Dichem	0.1880	0.1905	
Greek Druchma th	0.2890	0.3230	
Cypriot Pound	1,4425	1.5580	

Lebanon's treasury Arab Potash Company hikes exports by 10%

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Potash Company (APC) increased its exports by more than 10 per cent of 1.5 million tonnes in 1994 as the international market for potash picked after a period of stagnation and uncertain prices, Said company officials Saturday.

They said the company expected to increase its production to 1.7 million tonnes in 1995, slightly below the full production capacity because of maintenance work at its production facilities on the shore of the Dead Sea.

The officials said APC also expected higher profits in 1995 in view of what one of

COMPANY'S NAME

BANKS

JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE BOLY LAND INSURANCE

ARAB BANK JORDAN NATIONAL BANK

JORDAN NATIONAL BANK
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.
INDOSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK
JORDAN KUMAIT BANK
JORDAN GULF BANK
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK
BEIT ELMAL SAVINGEINVESTMENT FOR BOUSING
ANDIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT

SECTOR

INSURANCE SECTOR

MATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT UNITED HIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS

ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION

THE INDOSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS ARAB PHARMACEOTICAL MANUFACTURING

JORDAN CERAMIC INDOSTRIES
RAFIA INDUSTRIES
OAR AL OAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT

ARAB INVESTMENT & INVESTMENT ARAB INVESTMENT & INFINATIONAL TRADE LIVESTOCK & POULTRY ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

JORDAN INDOSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO MATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING

ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS

BECTOR

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET

KAGTHER INVESTMENT UNIVERSAL MODERN INDOSTRIES JORDAN INDOSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.

INOOSTRIAL

GRAND TOTAL

JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER /NEW JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES

SBRVICES SECTOR

THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES
THE ARAB POTASB/NEW

ALADOIN INDUSTRIES

them described as an upward swing in demand and thus prices since mid-1994.

The company raised its annual installed production capacity to 1.8 million with the commissioning in June 1994 of a 400,000-tonne-peryear new plant, the first phase of an expansion programme tht aims at an annual

up from JD 128 million in 1993, and net profits were JD 24 million compared with JD 22 million in 1993, JD 28 million in 1992 and JD 38 million in 1991.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET BOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SEMEISANI TELEPRONE: 660170 / 663170 ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 14/

production capacity of 2.2 million tonnes by 1998. The company produced 1.55 million tonnes in 1994 and exported 1.15 million. tonnes. The turnover of the company was JD 132 million.

TRADED

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22448

(200,000 tonnes) and Malaysia (140,000 tonnes). Other clients include Korea, Japan, the Philippines, New Zealand, Vietnam, Taiwan, Sri Lanka and Australia. APC prices favour Asian and Far Eastern buyers be-

India, which bought 300,000

(200,000 tonnes), Indonesia

cause of a \$20 advantage in freight; the average landed cost for a tonne of potash in Asia and the Far East is around \$110 while it is \$130 in Europe. Canada leads the world in

potash production and ex-The Arab Potash Company

has already signed contracts

PREV. CLOSING PRICE

184.000 183.250 4.310 4.200 4.720 4.180 1.600 1.530 2.880 2.850 3.060 3.030 1.610 1.540 3.700 3.680

INTEX NUMBER: 158.13

INDEX NUMBER: 127.15

INDEX NUMBER: 131.94 CHANGE : -0.412

1.490 6.200 3.150 2:350

1.220 2.400 3.500

2.880 5.400 4.250 7.650 5.340

4.140

2.760 4.500 800 5.100

1 -0.917

4.410 2.160 1.490

1.540

3.420 3.480

2.960

4.350

7.750

5.380 6.300

16.450

4.240

4.550 .820 5.350

2.760 1.740 4.180

2,150

343368 INDEX NUMBER: 127.96

INDEX NUMBER: 143.72

CHANCE

Among the major impor-ters of APC outputs are to supply 600,000 tonnes in 1995. The deals need to be finalised with definite prices, tonnes in 1994, China the offiicals said.

"We are seeing a signifie cant improvement in the international market for potash since mid-1994, and we expect prices to continue to go up in 1995," said a senior official of the company.

The official said the company expected an increase of \$4 per tonne in the first half of 1995 and another \$4 per tonne in the second half, as the republics in ex-Sovier Union cut back on their produc-

Dumping hy producers in some of the ex-Soviet republics in the transition from a single entity to individual countries - with experienced market strategists making way to politicians — was widely blamed for the stagna-

tion in prices that the interna-

tional potash market witnessed in 1992-93.

Reports say that producers in the republics have now realised that they suffered heavy losses from haphazard exports and have cut down on production as they ponder new marketing strategies.

The APC floated a fresh issue in 1994 and raised its capital to JD 83.31 million from JD 72,45 million and used about JD 35 million it collected in premiums to finance its expansion projects.

The government of Jordan is the majority shareholder in the company. Other equity owners include the Social Security Corporation, the Arah Mining Company and the governments of Iraq. Kuwait, Saudi Arahia and Libya and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank as well as the private sector.

Omani official: Japanese reluctant to invest in Gulf

ABU DHABI (AFP) -Japan is reluctant to invest more in the Gulf region because of a lack of skilled labour and concerns over possible instability, an Omani official has said.

Sheikh Yaquh Ibn Hamad Al Harithi, chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told the UAE daily Al Khaleej he did not expect the oil-rich Gulf to attract major investments from Japan or the West as they prefer other areas.

"I am not optimistic about attracting Japanese or Western investment to the Golf region," he said.

More than 200 officials and businessmen from the sixnation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met their counterparts in Tokyo last month to discuss joint ventures which are essential for Gulf attempts to build an industrial base and lessen reliance on unpredictable oil exports. "At our talks in Tokyo, the

Japanese claimed they were worried about investing in the Gulf or the Middle East on the grounds that these tense areas which lack cheap labour and qualified cadres ind that their markets are limited," he said.

He said Japanese investors appeared to prefer neighbouring China, South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia while Europe and the United States

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are turning to the former Soviet Union and its previous communist allies in East Europe.

The conference followed several similar meetings between the GCC and the

But such meetings have produced no concrete results as Western investors seem not to want to commit themselves to major projects in the area because of its limited market potential.

No official figures are available on Western investments in the GCC but those by Japan are estimated at around \$3.5 billion, a fraction of its worldwide assets of nearly \$386 billion.

Foreign investors have also complained about restrictions on ownership of projects in GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE. Despite their liberal economic policies, the six states still stipulate foreign investors must have at least 49 per cent local partnership.

"There are \$170 billion in liquidity inside the GCC countries. But these countries do not know how to Harithi said. "They need technology and need to think well in order to invest their own funds instead of seeking Japanese or American liquid-

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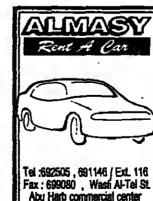
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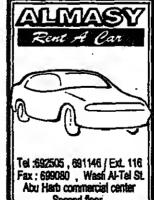
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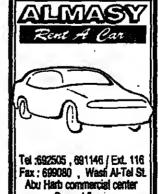
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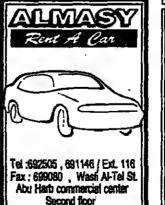
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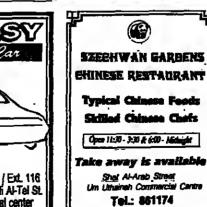
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Cowboys, 49ers face NFL showdown

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - American football's two title favourites meet here Sunday with reigning champion Dallas trying to secure a place in history and San Francisco seeking their moment in the spotlight.

The 49ers and Cowboys meet in a National Football League (NFL) semi-final, with the winner playing San Diego or Pittsburgh in the Super Bowl on January 29 in Miami. Dallas seeks an unprecedented third straight Super Bowl victory.

"We are at a crossroads in history where we could become the NFL's greatest team," Dallas owner Jerry

The 49ers beat Dallas 21-14 last November in the regular season, helping them secure home-field advantage for this playoff game. A Dallas loss would be devastating to new coach Barry Switzer, who replaced Jimmy Johnson this

"It would be very disappointing," he said. "It would hurt. We would have lost our golden purpose."
"We have got to win," said Dallas receiver Michael Irvin. "It's not something you want to look back at 10 years from now wishing you had done."

Dallas rusher Emmitt Smith, slowed by a strained left hamstring, is expected to play. Rains in California the past week could produce poor field conditions, but Smith is not

"I'm a pretty good mudder," he said. "I'll be out there." Quarterbacks Troy Aikman of Dallas and Steve Young of San Francisco will each be tested by one of the league's top defenses. But the best head-to-head matchup will be Irvin and Alvin Harper against 49ers defender Deion

"I like it when the challenge is great," Irvin said. "Usually, when the challenge is great, the whole world is watching." Teams have simply avoided throwing against Sanders.

Olympic

qualifying

JOHANNESBURG

(AFP) — The qualifying competition to determine

which three countries rep-

resent Africa at the 1996

Olympic Games football

finals in the United States

Burundi play Djibouti in

Bnjumhura, Lesotho tackle

Namibia in Maseru and

Bnrkina Faso meet Guinea

Bissau in Ouagadougou in

preliminary-round, first-leg

The return matches are

scheduled for the weekend of January 27-29 with the

overall winners going for-ward to the first-round

Sonth Africa await

Burandi or Djibouti,

paired with Lesotho or

Namibia and Tunisia will

confront Burkina Faso or

None of the six coun-

tries io action this weekend are likely qualifiers for the

16-nation finals, scheduled

for five American cities -

Athens, Birmingham,

Miami, Orlando and

But it will be a special

day for the contenders as

they compete for the first

time in the Olympics,

which ranks second only to

World governing body

FIFA are so concerned the

Olympics could upstage

their premier event they

have restricted the qual-

ifying rounds to players

In the finals, teams can

field three players over the

age limit, a move that has

been criticised in Europe as

a backward step in the de-

velopment of rising stars.

Burundi are favoured to

huild a winning lead over

Djihouti, a tiny former

French colony situated at the horn of Africa, which

was admitted to FIFA only

A cluh from Burundi

reached the African Cupwinners' Cup final two

years ago and the youth side defeated Malawi and

Egypt to reach the African

Lesotho could draw

heavily on the squad that

gave South Africa a fright

in the youth championship

while Namihia have a

sound youth development

Burkina Faso, should

prove too strong at home

programme.

for Guinea Bissan.

finals, which begin January

last June.

the World in universal foot-

proper in April.

Guinea Bissau.

Washington.

ball importance.

aged under 23.

starts in

Africa

begins Sunday.

fixtures.

Games

who has seven interceptions this season. But his backfield teammate has picked off eight and will handle whichever Dallas threat Sanders is not guarding.



Emmitt Smith, the Dallas Cowboys' star running back, at practice

Romario completes transfer to Flamengo

BARCELONA (AFP) -Romario announced Friday he had finally signed for Flamengo after difficult and lengthy negotiations with Barcelona club officials, his agent and Flamengo president Kleber Leite.

And according to Barcelona's vice-president Joan Gaspart, the Catalonian club received 600 million pesetas (about 4.5 million) in the form of a hank guarantee which was meticulously examined by Barcelona accoun-

The 28-year-old Brazilian World Cup star, who had played at Barcelona for a season and a half, leaves for Rio on Saturday morning.

Romario, who has signed a two-year contract with the Rio cluh, said at a press conference: "I am not leaving Barcelona for professional reasons, but because I think the moment has come for me to return to my country and join up with my house and

"Nevertheless, I would like to express my gratitude to supporters, players, coaches and directors of Barcelona." Barcelona are set to gain should Romario ever again play outside Brazil.

Romario would have to pay between 600 and 900 millions peseta (between \$4.5 and 7 million) to Barcelona, depending on which country and continent he moved to. And if Flamengo wanted Barcelona to relinquish this right, they would have to pay an extra 600 million pesetas, Gaspart added. Romario said he was leav-

ing with a clear mind and on good terms with Barcelona. "I arrived at Barcelona at a very difficult time in my career and the players totally accepted me. I have tried to give my best," he added. Cruyff, who on Friday ex-

till July 1997, has been unsettled by Romario this season. He turned up more than three weeks late at the beginning of the season, and his form has been poor - far from the performances which earned him 30 goals in 1993/

tended his coaching contract

And Romario officially announced his definite intention to leave Barcelona last

Thursday - just two days before their crucial clash with Real Madrid, which they went on to lose 5-0.

Romario, who described Cruyff as the best coach in the world, said be had "a year and a half of happiness

"If I wish to return to Europe, I would hope the doors of Barcelona would open again for me." The aonouncement of

Romario's return was welcomed with delight in Rio, as cars motored round the city draped in Flamengo's red and black colours.

Further celebrations will include a trip across the city by the gifted striker in a type of "Popemobile," or openof "Popemobile," or open-topped vehicle.

Panathinaikos, Napoli given stadium bans

GENEVA (R) - Italy's Napoli and Panathinaikos of Greece were ordered by UEFA Friday to play their next home European match in an empty stadium. The control and disciplin-

ary committee of European soccer's governing hody reached their decision after studying incidents of crowd disorder involving both clubs earlier this season. Napoli were punished be-

cause their supporters threw missiles, including bottles and stones, on to the pitch during their UEFA Cup tie against Eintracht Frankfurt on December 7.

Trouble also flared when Panathinaikos played eloh Brugge of Belgium in a European Cup Winners' Cup match in November. The Greek clubs' fans behaved in an unsportsmanlike fashioo, according to the committee. Panathinaikos were also fined 35,000 Swiss francs (\$22,750) and Brugge 40,000

because of on-field incidents involving their players.
One of them, Athaniasios Kolitsidakis, was banned for

francs (\$26,000) respectively

three matches. Macedonia were ordered to play their next two European Championship qualfying ties in an empty stadium as punishment for their fans setting off fireworks while celebrating victory over Cyprus last month. A Cypriot delegation official was in-

Italian champions AC Milan were fioed 20,000 francs (\$13,000) because their fans set off fireworks in the Champions' League tie against Ajax Amsterdam November 23 Casino Salzhurg coach

Otto Baric was banned from the touchline from all UEFA cluh competition matches until the end of the year for his "undisciplined conduct" during the Champions' League tie against AC Milan Decem-

Intercontinental Cup

Denmark subdue Argentina to win title

RIYADH (AFP) — De-nmark added the Intercontinental Cup to their European title after refusing to be subdued by intimidation in a 2-0 win over 10-man Argentina here Friday.

Michael Laudrup and Peter Rasmossen settled a match in which holders Argentina used unrestrained aggression rather than foot-ball finesse.

Defender Jose Chamot could have been sent off in the first half. Bot referee Ali Abou Jassim of the United Arah Emirates eventually sent him off in the dying seconds.

Roberto Ayala could also have been dismissed for another cynical fool as Argentina used bullying taotics — particularly against Brian Laudrup — throughout the showpiece final.

Michael Landrup's early penalty enlivened the match after a clear foul on Jes Hogh. Hogh, looking danger-ous on the right side of Argentina's area, was open-

ded by Roberto Ayala.

Ayala had tried to pull back his right leg, but his reactions were too slow, and defender Hogh, playing his 11th international, was left sprawling.

after Friday's games:

Orlando 101, Atlanta 96

Minnesota 104, Detroit 92 "

Sacramento 89, Chicago 79

New York 91, Milwankee 88

Houston 103, San Antonio 100 Seattle 108, L.A. Clippers 101 L.A. Lakers 115, Golden State 104

11

26 23 21

19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Pacific Division

Utah 95, Boston 93

Orlande

Charlotte

Chicago Atlanta

Detroit

Milwauke

San Anto

Denver

Phoenix

Portland

L.A. Lakers

Golden State

L.A. Clippers

New Jersey 110, Philadelphia 101 Indiana 113, Washington 99

Michael Landrup went off injured after 27 minutes, surely pleasing Jorge Valda-no, coach of Real Madrid who play an important match against Deportivo La Coruna

at the weekend. Almost immediately after the substitution, Argentina continued their over physical ploys as Alejandro Escudero nacked down Denmark's Brian Laudrup.

And 10 minutes later, Cha-

mot was lucky to stay on the field as Brian Laudrup was yet again brought down, this time on the edge of the box. Just before the break, Ayala, already booked, was also saved from dismissal by the referee's lenience as he

appeared to elbow Brian Laudrup in the face. Peter Rasmusssen missed with a header just after the hreak, but atoned for that with a 74th minute goal, set

up by Brian Laudrup, to scal Denmark's 1.5-million-dollar winners' check, Mexico overcome Nigeria

Meanwhile Mexico put their penalty nightmares be-hind them when they beat

Nigeria 5-4 in a shoot-out for third place in the Intercontinental Cup. Mexico had lost 4-2 on

NBA Results and Standings

WASHINGTON (AFP) - NBA results and standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

.800 .625 .412 .378 .303 .303

.667 .636 .606 .529

.429

.324

.688 .645 .515 .484 .212

.719 .656

.576

.563

.313

6½ 13½ 15

111/2

2½ 6½ 7½

61/2

7

15

penalties to Denmark in the semi-finals here this week and were knocked out of last year's World Cup finals on penalties by Bulgaria in the second round.

But with the scores level at 1-1 after 90 minutes — the Mexicans were soon celebrating a decisive save by flam-hoyant goalkeeper Jorge Campos against Emmanuel Amunike.

Nigeria's misery was com-pounded by having had a goal disallowed in injury time. Earlier, Roman Ramirez

put Mixico 1-0 up before Daniel Amokachi, who scored against Japan, banged in an equaliser for the Super

Both sides had made a hright start, with Austin Okocha's long shot forcing an awkward save from Campos. Minntes later, Carlos Hermosillo was just inches away from connecting at close range with Luis Gar-cia's looping cross from the

Ramirez finally broke the deadlock on 20 minotes, after a goalkeeping hlunder by Pe-

ter Rufai. The Nigerian's halfhearted punched clearance from a free kick found Ramirez unmarked inside the area and the waist-high shot came booncing hack just

beyond Rufai's grasp. However, barely 10 miautes later, a goalkeeping error at the other end brought Nigeria back into the

Kenya government asked to mediate in

athletes dispute NAIROBI (R) - Kenya track and field chief Isaiah Kiplagat called on the government Friday to mediate in a dispute which could lead to the banning of athletes who take part in unauthorised

meetings. The row erupted carlier this week when Kiplagat, chairman of the Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA), threatened setaking part in three events sponsored by an Italian sports equipment company

during the next four weeks. He said then it was illegal for athletes and sponsores to organise any meetings without the authority of a national governing body and anyone taking part would be

banned. . But on Friday Kiplagat called on the government to intervene in the affair.

"We request the ministry of culture and social services (which includes sports) to intervene and let us know their stand," Kiplagat said in a

Middle distance stars Nixon Kiprotich, Sammy Koskei and Peter Rono and distance runner Moses Tanui are among local organisers of three events.

Athletes have said they would ignore the KAAA threat.

Effes Pilsen's Reggie cross #12 and Olym- match between Greece's Olympiakos of piakos' Panagiotis Fassoulas #10 in action Piracus and Effes Pilsen of Istanbul. Effes during the European Champious basketball Pilsen won 79-56 (AFP photo)

GOREN BRIDGE

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West Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of # We have often heard peop

THE EXPERTS NIGHTMARE

could be farther from the truth. To illustrate, consider this seemingly simple hand.

The hidding is typical of the opti-naism of many of today's players. North wasn't sure how to describe, the holding once a speck-fit was discovered, so elected-to-jump over-game. As a result; South had to de-clare in the no-man's land of heider. The fine head

game. As a result; South had to de-clars in the no-man's land of heider—the five-level.

When dunnay came down it was obvious that limiting the diamond and spade losses to a total of two

was all that was required. To the was all that was required. To the average player, there no problem. The spade finesse is taken one way or the other and the outcome seals the fate of the contract. The expert will always consider other lines. One way is to cash the acc of diamonds early, hoping some-one with a doubleton king doesn't unblock. Then the aca and king of

Rainer better is to win the open-ing lead and dock a diamond imme-diately. Declarer can win any return, cash the ace and king of trumps and all the outside winners, including the ace of diamonds, then exit with a trump and hope for a similar play. That works with any do

these lines succeeds when trumps are 4-1, and there are several other hurdles along the way. In the final analysis, we think the expert should try to guess the location of the queen of spades immediately, de-

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O A T	Jim Carrey in THE MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Julia Roberts/Nick Nolte in I Love Trouble Shows 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 The Lion King Shows: 10:30, 12:30, 3:30, 5:00	Sylvester Stallone Sharon Stone in THE SPECIALIST Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Harrison Ford - Whitney Houston THE BODYGUARD Shows: 3, 5,	SUM'A In the satirical play HI CITIZEN Composed and directed by Mohammad Al Shawaqfeh Daily from 8.30 p.m. Children's Play The Ninja Turties Show Directed by Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 3.30 p.m.	Punctured Bag	Presents: The political satire: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 in English Sunday January 15, 1995



penalties to Dengant and were knocked on penalties by Bulgan.
But with the color of the class of the challenge rad being and were knocked on penalties by Bulgan.
But with the color of the class of the

But with the sound after 50 minute title in 1988 and recommended to come title in 1988 and recommended to come.

Amunike

was stripped title in 1988 and recommended to example against the second time, has agreed to come.

The want to organise this race to send a message to the second and a message to the seco

Scored against Japan is race.

The equaliser for the for 13 years and I have seen it from the inside. Almost no the

Removez finally by seadlock on 30 minus a gualaceping blands ter Rufai, area and the waist. Frenchman Jean-Pierre Fon-tenay.

Lartigue's Citroen stretch-inductor, batch ed its overall lead by nearly errer at the only Cars

Kenya governmen asked to mediatein athletes diva 1. Lartique

NATROBI (R) - 2. Saby The and field the 3. Shinozuka Art 130 talled #: -4. Salonen Lie which our, est in the renains of six ye

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ciudes sor and lei us b Kiplagat Militaria distances. Same and Park Rond B Moses 12, ____ ocal one . - - ya faverats Air oten hair ignore the

anuary 15,

LONDON (R) — Banned sprinters Ben Johnson and Andreas Berger are planning to clash in a head-to-head challenge race in Austria. Berger, banned for four years in 1993 after testing positive for anabolic steroids.

has thrown down the gauntlet

Pounded by having he asid Berger by telephone and Berg

South sides had a from the inside. Almost me fro Oxners slong shorter power sports can exist with-evaluated sale from the out drugs.

Minutes 1. With the problem is not

Minutes later conly confined to the top Hermosillo was in level, said the 34-year-old cone range with it.

clash of banned sprinters "Everyone — promoters and federations — want us to run fast and there is a lot of money at stake. But it's impossible to run nuder 10

Johnson, Berger set for

seconds without help. Berger said he had phoned Johnson on December 26 "and he agreed to come."

The Austrian Athletic Authorities have vowed to stop the race going ahead but Berger said he had received huge support locally — including from the local Burgermeister, Herbert Brunsteiner.

"I want to run and Johnson wants to run. The stadium here belongs to the city and the Bugermeister has said if I want to run I can run," he

No date has been fixed but preparations are well advanced and a potential sponsor is involved in talks.

Berger's best time for the 100 metres was 10.15 seconds in 1988. He recorded the same time three weeks before he was tested in July 1993. Johnson ran 9.79 in his infamous Olympie final in

Frenchman Lartigue leads in Paris-Dakar Rally

BAKEL, Senegal (AFP) punched & creased his lead in the Dakar free kid Rally Friday in a day marked

consider bares ed its overall lead by nearly radiator, top five.

54min 17sec over France's Bruno Saby in the 632km 12th stage from Bakel. Senegal, to Labe, Guinea. But Fontenay, second overall on Friday morning. careered into a ditch after 290km, damaged his radiator, and fell out of the

RESULTS

1. Pierre Lartigue-Perin (France/Citroen) 2. Ari Vatanen-Picard (Finland-France/Citroen) 2:20. 3. Timo Salonen-Gallagher (Finland-GB/Citroen) 8:52. 4. Bruno Saby-Serieys (France/Mitsubishi) 5. Kenjiro Shinozuka-Magne (Japan-France/Mitsubishi)

58h 56:08 3h 54:17. 4h 20:57. 7h 48:42. 17h 03:47

1... Tall in White Stage when the Action of the Action 7h 46:20. 19:17. 29:02. Turnshment a. 5. Gerard Jimmink (Neth/Cagiva)

67h 07:53. 6:53. 19:43. 44:32. Oscar Gallardo (Spain/Cagiva) 2h 16:19.

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Michael Chang

Chang beats Sampras in Kooyong Classic

MELBOURNE (AFP) — American Michael Chang completed a rousing Australian Open lead-up hy serving 10 aces in his victory over world No. 1 Pete Sampras in the final of the Kooyong Tennis Classic Saturday.

Chang defeated compatriot Sampras 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 in 66 minutes to win the eight-man exhibition event prior to next week's first Grand Slam of

Chang, who will make his third appearance at an Australian Open, capped an encouraging week with victories over past Wimbledon champions Pat Cash and Boris

He is seeded fifth for the Australian Open and will open against Australian wild card Paul Kilderry at Flinders

"Against a lot of the hig boys you need to serve well, otherwise they are going to pounce on your second (serve) and today's serving was definitely a key part of my game," he said. "Whenever you go against players like Pere or anyone

who has been at the top before, you take everything that you can get.
"It's definitely a good confidence booster, particularly to beat Boris and Pete, a few

days prior to the Australian Chang, who holds a 6-4 rivalry had gone back to as seven- and eight-year olds.

"We've known each other for quite a long time and we know each other's game. There's a period of time see-saws quite a hit, he's beaten me on the last few occasions so I'm sure it will continue to go back and

Date pulls out of NSW semifinal

Japan's defending cham-pion Kimiko Date quit with a strained stomach muscle Saturday as top seed Lindsay Davenport slogged her way to the women's final in the New South Wales Open tennis championships.

_ Date faces an anxious day waiting to see if treatment to the strained stomach muscle will allow her to play the Australian Open, starting Monday in Melhourne, where she is the seventh

Before she withdrew she had played some dazzling

The 24-year-old Japanese star aggravated an injury she suffered beforee coming to Australia and was in increasing difficulty before forfeiting her semi-final with Davenport 6-4, 6-1 ahead.

The sturdy Kyoto player, who won here last year. started the match with strapping on her injury and played brilliantly until the injury worsened; going up 4-1 and within a point of 5-2.

But the pain changed all.

As it set in Dayenport gage

As it set in Davenport gave head-to-head record over the wounded Date little Sampras, said their friendly chance, pounding huge groundstrokes and hreaking when they played each other her opponent's increasingly weak and erratic delivery in

her last five service games.
The towering Davenport will meet second seed Gabriela Sabatini in tomorrow's when we go back and forth, ir decider - a re-match of the

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nesses are unacceptable.

Virginia Slims Championship

final in November. Sahatini reversed last year's semi-final result here hy downing fourth seed Mary Joe Fernandez impressively,

Forget spells out danger

French left-hander Guy Forget underlined his claims as a dangerous unseeded floater in next week's Australian Open by winning the Adelaide International tennis challenge Saturday.

Forget heat Australia's Patrick Rafter 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (11-9) in a tight tussle. Rafter squandered five second set points before he wilted after a hrave fight in the second set

Forget, ranked 38 in the world and a quarter-finalist at the Australian Open in 1993 and 1991, is in Andre Agassi's half of the draw and tees off against Australian Gilbert Schaller next week.

Rafter appeared on track to wion the second set when he broke Forget in the fifth game of the set. He then had three set points on his serve in the 10th game, but could not capitalise.

The contest was a battle between two big servers with no breaks in the first set and only two breaks in the second, and Forget said it was his luck at crucial stages that helped him to the win. "We both served really

well, especially in the first set," Forget said.

Players ratify pact, NHL season to start Friday

the 700-member Players' Association ratified the heights it can attain," Bettman said. a new contract and saved the season, which

with Players' Association chief Bob Goode- months to complete. now announcing the end of the lockout that

"We are ready to start playing hockey." contract offer from club owners.

"There's healing that needs to be done, but Bettman announced that the league will remainder of the deal.

havve a 48-game regular season schedule to Stanley Cup playoffs. Teams will play exclu- after the player reaches age 25. Each club will regular season.

playoffs to begin on May 6. Each club lost 36 any one year. games due to the lockout. As for grou

at Madison Square Garden. The Rangers will raise their Stanley Cup hanner in a pre-game

The defending Western Conference champion Vancouver Canucks also open their \$1.075 million by the year 2000. season on Friday night, hosting the Dallas

NEW YORK (R) — Friday the 13th proved a "Now is the time to focus on the future. We lucky day for the National Hockey League as must work together to lift this great game to

'We have a signed document, a memoranwill begin next Friday.

"Happy Friday the 13th," commissioner but the complete CBA (Collective Bargaining Gary Bettman said at a joint news conference Agreement) will take the lawyers a couple of

"We are delighted to have this process over had threatened to cancel an entire season. with I can't wait to go to the first game next week.

Goodenow said that voting figures were not Training camps will officially open Saturday complete but the majority of players from the morning for all 26 NHL teams who will race to league's teams voted to accept the final get ready without benefit of any preseason

The new deal is for six years, with unres the important thing is to get the focus back to tricted free agency coming at age 32 for the the players on the ice," said Goodenow. first three years and dropping to 31 for the first three years and dropping to 31 for the

In most cases, a player will be eligible for begin next Friday followed by a full slate of arbitration after five seasons in the league or sively within their own conference in the be able to walk away from three arbitration regular season.

be able to walk away from three arbitration awards of at least \$550,000 in any two-year The regular season ends on May 3 with the period but may not use all three walkaways in

As for group two restricted free agents Eight games will take place on opening each team will have a right to match any offer night, including the Stanley Cup champion from another team. If the original team New York Rangers hosting the Buffalo Sabres decides not to match, it will receive compensation ranging from a third-round to a first-round draft choice.

The deal calls for a rookie salary cap heginning at \$850,000 and increasing to

twin victories.

marks for Alphand beside his

He was the first French-

man to win the elassic

Hahnenkamm race since Jean-Claude Killy took the

first World Cup downhill here in 1967, he was the first

Frenchman to win two dow-

nhills on a single course, and

he is the first-ever skier to

win two World Cup dow-

nhills in a single day.
"This is absolutely amaz-

376

300 235

ing," he said in jubilation.

Either side can re-open the deal after the fourth year of the contract.

France's Alphand wins two downhills

The reduced Streiof layout

was cut by some 40? metres

at the top, including a steep

section known as the Mause-

falle which includes one

stretch with a 75 degree in-

But at 2,740 metres long

and with a vertical drop of

680 metres, it was tough

enough as the organisers cre-ated a demanding test of

turning and gliding abilities

that grew icy as the day prog-

KITZBUEHEL, Austria (R) - France's Luc Alphand, who had never before scored an Alpine skiing World Cup victory, burst gloriously onto the rostrum by winning two downhills on the famed

Streif" course Saturday. Alphand completed his remarkable one-day double in the scheduled Hahnenkamm Classic down the shortened course, chopped at the top because of heavy snow this week, in one minute 40.33 seconds, 0.64 seconds faster than when he won the first race in 1:40.97 two hours

carlier. Austria's Armin Assinger finished second in 1:40.58 and Italy's Werner Perathoner finished third in 1:41.43.

In the earlier race, a replacement for one postponed in December. Austria's ex-Olympic champion Patrick Ortleih was second with Italian Kristian Ghedina third.

It was a fabulous day for the French ski team as Florence Masanda, who had also never won a world Cup race, captured a women's Super-Giant slalom in Garmisch-Partenkirchen over a course that claimed the life of Austrian Ulrike Maier a year

Michael Von Grunigen (Switz) Gunther Mader (Austria) g. Miehael Tritscher (Austria) 9. Mario Reiter (Austria) 10. Marc Girardelli (Luxembourg

Alberto Tomba (Italy)

Luc Alphand (France)

Patrick Ortlieb (Austria)

Kjetil-Andre Aamodt (Norway)

Jure Kosir (Slovenia)



Overall World Cup standings

ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the Intensive Course in Modern Standard Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages will commence on January 28, 1995 and will last for 16 weeks.

The programme is intensive. (Classes are in the morning and meet 20 hours per week, Saturday — Wednesday).

Those interested, please call at the Language Centre for registration or further information. Registration begins on Saturday, Jan. 21, 1995.

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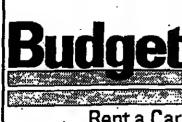
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Algiers seen cool to opposition's proposal

ALGIERS (Agencies) -The offer made by Algeria's main opposition groups for talks with the military-backed government brings no new elements to the country's ongoing crisis, according to initial media reaction Saturday to the proposal.

The government hy mid-day Saturday had not issued a statement in reaction to the proposal made the previous day in Rome but the official news agency APS said the accord "overall reiterates the demands of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

In a statement described as a "national contract," the religious and secular Algerian opposition, including the FIS, called Friday for a national conference to be held as soon as possible to pave the way for free democratic elections.

The initiative was the first time opposition groups had agreed on a common stand to end the country's crisis triggered by the government's decision three years ago to cancel the second round of general elections which the

FIS was poised to win. In Washington, the State Department issued a statement saying that the accord was a "significant event" and was reached by groups repre-senting some 80 per cent of Algerians who voted in the contested 1991 election.

It "appears to be a serious effort to contribute to the establishment of a process that could lead to a nonviolent solution to the Algerian crisis," the department

But APS said the Rome declaration was similar to a government offer last year for talks with several FIS

Most newspapers here Saturday also appeared indifferent to the declaration saying it represented FIS demands and brought no new

The miracle expected in Rome never occurred," said the independent daily Al Watan in a front-page editorial. It added that the Rome meeting, sponsored by the Sant' Egidio Community, a Roman Catholic peace group, "would have brought nothing new towards restoring peace.

Another independent daily, Liberte, said the Rome solution only reflected the FTS demands

'It does not condemn terrorism and makes no allusion to a truce or an end to the

bloodbath," it said. It added that the resolution was more a "diktat" than an offer for future negotiations and said the government was unlikely to respond positive-

The daily Le Matin said the Rome declaration amounted to "endorsing fundamentalist terrorism" and marked a victory for the FIS which did not have to drop any of its demands and could now negotiate from a position of power with the government."

"One is hardpressed to see what kind of parade the government can put on in answer to what has just happened in Rome, other than organise these suspicious demonstrations," the paper said, referring to various so-called "spontageous" pro-government marches often organised throughout the country.

The daily Al Umma, close to the fundamentalists, said the accord reached in Rome represented an "important

NEWS IN BRIEF

SANAA (R) - Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh will

startia three-day visit to France on Sunday as part of a European tour likely also to include the Netherlands and

Germany, official sources said on Saturday. It will be Mr.

Saleh's first visit to France since a two-month civil war last

year in which his forces defeated southern separatists. During the war, Paris expressed support for Yemen's unity

and Mr. Saleh "will express his country's appreciation and gratitude for the French stand." one source said. Mr. Saleh

would also discuss economic cooperation with France.

Yemeni husinessmen and investors will accompany Mr.

Saleh to explore prospects of cooperation both in the public

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Israel would have hit back at Iraq if it

had launched an unconventional attack on the Jewish state during the 1991 Gulf war, former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Saturday. "If we had been attacked with

unconventional weapons, we would have been forced to

react militarily," Mr. Shamir told Israel radio ahead of the

fourth anniversary of the war to free Kuwait from Iraqi

occupation. Two people died and hundreds were wounded

when Iraq hit Israel with 39 Scud missiles in the January

17-Feh. 28 war, but Israel did not retaliate to avoid

undermining the anti-Iraq coalition which included Arab

states. "In the event of an unconventional Iraqi attack, our

problem was to know when to act, without the agreement

of the allies if necessary, which would have posed serious

problems of coordination because we had to make sure we

would not cause American casualties," Mr. Shamir said.

Fundamentalists condemned at Turk's funeral

ISTANBUL (R) — Thousands of Turks condemned

Islamic fundamentalists on Saturday at the funeral of a

prominent Turkish writer, who died in a bomb explosion.

Onat Kutlar, 59, died this week of wounds sustained from

the explosion in a central Istanhul hotel on Dec. 30. An

outlawed Islamie group, the Great Eastern Islamie Raiders
— front (IBDA-C), claimed responsibility for the blast,

which also killed a tour guide and wounded another man.

Kutlar, a poet and film critic, wrote in Cumhuriyet daily, a

leading advocate of secularism in predominantly Muslim

Turkey. Some 5,000 mourners, who gathered in the garden

of Cumhuriyet editorial headquarters in Babiali district

early in the morning, marched towards the Tesvikiye

Mosque where a religious ceremony was held. The mourners shouted anti-militant slogans that included "Tur-

key will not he another Iran," "Turkey is secular and will

remain secular" and "Mullahs to Iran." Kutlar's body was

later buried in an Istanbul cemetery.

Sudan leader fires two officials

and private sectors, the sources said.

Israel would have hit back at Iraq?

Yemeni president to visit France

step made by a strong opposition toward the government. The ball is now in the

government's conrt," the paper said. "It is now necessary to extend a hand and try to use this year to resolve this

Suspected Muslim guerril-las abducted and killed an Algerian journalist working for the government-controlled newspaper Al Shaab, the paper said on

Abdul Hamid Yahiaoui, 33, was seized on Thursday as he was leaving his home in the Algiers suburb of Baraki to meet a friend, Al Shaab

His body was found the next day with two hullets in the head about 100 metres from his home.

The newspaper said that the day before his abduction. Yahiaoui had discussed with colleagues the risk of being killed and had said he hoped 'to die without suffering.'

He was the third journalist to be killed in Algeria this month, and at least the 30th to die since June 1993, according to the French organisation Reporters Sans Frontiers (Reporters Without Borders). The Paris-based press free-

dom watchdog group said it wrote to Algerian President Liamine Zeroual demanding that the government take adequate steps to protect iournalists.

Algerian police have arrested the Algiers freelance correspondent of Italy's ANSA news agency and two of his children, ANSA said. It said Algerian reporter Mohammad Zaaf, 49, and his two children were arrested

(Continued on page 3)

back on trial

BEIRUT (AFP) - Lebanese

Christian warlord Samir

Geagea, who faces a possible

death sentence on murder

charges, went back on trial

here Saturday without a de-

The lawyers of his two co-

defendants, Rafik Saadeh

and Camille Karam, also

walked out in protest. "The

attitude of the court, which is

contrary to the law, sets a

dangerous precedent," they

Mr. Geagea's last two

court-appointed lawyers

dropped ont during a hearing

The former militia chief,

whose trial opened Nov. 19,

is charged with murdering

rival Christian leader Dany

Chamoun and his family in

1990, and with the bombing

of a church oear Beirut in

February 1994 that claimed

His lawyers Mahmud

Mukhaish and Nazih Shlala

retired because Mr. Geagea

told the court they "harmed

his interests" by requesting a

postponement of the hearings

Mr. Mnkhaish argued that

the Chamoun charges were

hased upon information

obtained during the church

inquiry, and that the case

should be put off until a

verdict is reached on the

Mr. Geagea, head of the

Lebanese Forces militia in

the last five years of the

1975-1990 eivil war, re-

quested that the heariogs

church bombing.

on the Chamoun case.

said in a statement.

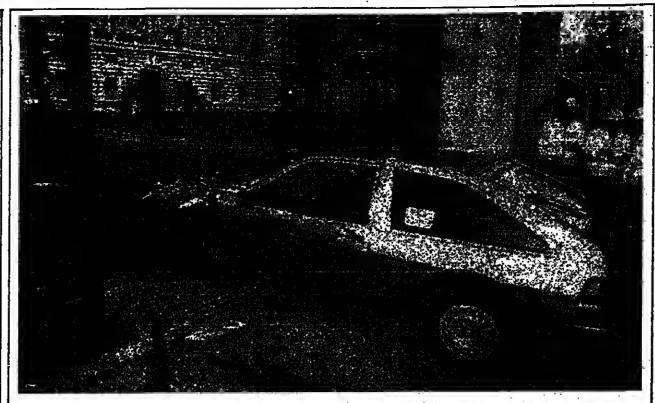
on Friday.

11 lives.

Geagea

without

defence



CRASH AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE: The scene early Friday outside the main gates of Buckingham Palace, the official residence of the British royal family, where a private vehicle crashed, bringing down one of the gates. The driver

of the Volkswagen Scirocco, a man in his 20s, was being interviewed by police and the cause of the collision is not immediately clear (AIP photo)

Shiite areas of **Bahrain** tense

NICOSIA (Ageocies) Shiite Muslim areas of Bahrain were tense Saturday after security forces arrested 48 people in clashes at the funeral of a demonstrator, the country's exiled Islamic opposition said.

The 48 people were from the mainly Shiite village of Diraz, where Abdul Kader Mohsen Al Fatlawi died Thursday in a clash with police, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain

(IFLB) said. The IFLB, in a statement received in Cyprus, said police made the arrests when they attacked the 3,000 people attending Fatla-

Diplomats and witnesses said Thursday's clashes lasted all night in Diraz, Beni Jamrah, Abu Sibaa, Barbar, Jidhafs and Sanabes - Shiite communities northwest of

was the worst violence since protests broke out in the emirate in mid-December after the arrest of a prominent Shiite cleric, Sheikh Ali Salman, on Dec. 5, the

sources said. The IFLB said Saturday that the trouble had spread to Manama as well as Nouidrat, another Shiite community to

The Ahrar liberal opposition movement based in London reported several wounded in clashes on Thursday and Friday. Tension was high in Shiite villages on Saturday. Meanwhile the emir,

Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, met Joseph Hoar and Richard Murphy, both members of the U.S. Foreign Relations Council, the official Bahraini news agency GNA said.

The meeting was also attended by Prime Minister Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, Foreign Minister Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifa and Interior Minister Mohammad Ben Khalifa Al

Demonstrators on Thursday called for the return of parliamentary democracy and for political reforms, as well as the release of prisoners, the witnesses and diplomats contacted by telephone

Iraq says 5,000 dead in one province because of sanctions

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — More than 5,000 people died in a single province of Iraq last year because of a shortage of medicine and food caused by U.N. sanctions, the official news agency INA

said Saturday.
It said 339 infants and 192 children under the age of five were among the 5,093 who died in the southern province of Dhi Qar. In October, Health Minis-

ter Umid Mubarak said the situation was deteriorating by the day. The infant mortality rate had risen from 12 per 1,000 in 1989 to as many as 148 per 1,000 in 1994,

The U.N. Security Council on Thursday renewed for another two months the crippling embargo in force against Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of neighbour-

Food and medicine are exempted from the sanctions. But Baghdad says it does not have enough funds to import the country's needs because of the embargo on oil exports, its economic lifeline. An Iraqi daily launched a

scathing attack Saturday on United Nations, saying her said. "I think that what is

"lies" and U.S. "theft" were to blame for the renewal of the U.N. sanctions.

"Mad Albright is insolent and a liar," the official newspaper Al Jumburiya said of Ambassador Madeleine Albright, who has charged that Iraq still had to return military and civilian equipment stolen during its inva-

sion of Knwait. Theft is the speciality of senior U.S. officials who proclaim in public that the Gulf region is a vital zone for their interests," the paper charged.

"It is the United States which robs the world today and resorts to aggression, Al Jumhuriya said. After a closed door meet-

ing, Security Council President Emilio Cardenas of Argentina said Thursday that the council has completed the 23rd exam of sanctions against Iraq... there has been no change in the situation whatsoever."

"It has been determined that the situation has not changed in a way that would make it credible or possible to change the sanctions reg-

important in the council is that all members did agree that it's very important for Iraq to hve up to the Security Council resolutions and the commitments it has made."

British team to Iraq.

A delegation of British industrialists is to visit Iraq in February despite the sanctions on trade with the country, the Financial Times reported on Friday.

The newspaper said the delegation, which would be in Iraq on Feb. 15, was being organised by a commercial lobby group called the Iraqi-British Interests Group, and that it would be going "with government backing.

However, a Department of Trade official said Britain had not relaxed the strict un-agreed rules governing business contacts with Iraq that have been in force sincethe Gulf war.

Companies can supply only "homanitarian items" to Iraq, such as medical supplies and basic foodstuffs, she said. Even then, the companies need a special licence from the government.

(Continued on page 3)

Sri Lankan talks hit snags

JAFFNA (Agencies) - The Sri Lankan government and Tamil rebels failed to make headway on a political package, as peace talks appeared stalled after a third round Saturday in this northern re-

hel stronghold.

The leader of the government delegation, Kusumsiri Balapatabendi, said the two sides failed to agree on a date to start substantive political negotiations but decided to extend the current cessation of hostilities.

Government negotiators also announced that Colombo had decided to lift 20 more items off a list of goods banned from northern areas controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eclam

President Chandrika Kumaratunga partially lifted the economic embargo after leading her People's Alliance to victory at the August parliamentary elections in a bid to speed op the peace pro-

In August the government removed almost half the items from a list of nearly 50 banned goods before opening negotiations with the LTTE aimed at resolving the island's long-running ethmie conflict in the northeast. Among the items that were

removed at that time were all medicines, food, sanitary napkins and kerosene oil The latest list of items to be exempted from the ban includes printing machines, toy guns and electrical wire. However, the government

was still ondecided on whether to lift five other items including remote control devices, binoculars, telescopes and compasses, defeoce soorces said. The embargo on fuel will remain. After five hours of talks, Ms. Balapatabendi told re-

porters here that the discussions were "satisfactory but I would not say fully satisfactory. I expected other things to come out of the talks." Shortly after returning to Colombo, Ms. Balapatabendi acknowledged that the latest round of talks had not produced the same amount of success as the previous two

"It is oot deadlocked. Things have not been finalised. There is acceptance on both sides on the issues," Ms. Balanatabendi told reporters in the Sri Lankan capital after arriving from Jaffna.

However, the negotiators agreed to continue their current truce, journalists said.

The jouroalists, who accompanied the government team to Jaffna, said government and rebel spokesmen had told them the two-week ceasefire would continue after Jan. 22, when it was due to come under review. Government negotiators

said they wanted to start peace talks next month. Chief rebel oegotiator Tamil Chelvam said talks could only commence when an important land route to

the war-ravaged north had been opened and an economic embargo against the region lifted. "Negotiations on the poli-

tical package will regin once the land route is open and the economic embarge is lifted," rounds but rejected sugges-tions that talks were deadsaid Mr. Chelvam, head of the political section LTTE.

Human chain saves paintings from fire

PONTARLIER, France (AFP) — Volunteers formed a human chain to save paintings, including some by 19th century master Gustave Courbet, from a fire in a museum, officials said Friday. Some 95 per cent of the works at the museum in Pontarlier, eastern France, were saved after volunteers came to the rescue Thursday evening, a town hall official said.

Diana's friends ordered to give evidence

LONDON (AFP) Lawyers are ordering friends of Princess Diana to give evidence in a law suit over secretly shot photographs of her exercising in a London gym, Independent Television News (ITN) said Friday. The pictures, allegedly taken without the princess' know-ledge, were sold to Mirror Group Newspapers by the gym-owner Bryce Taylor. They were subsequently published. It is his lawyers who are calling the Princess of Wales' friends as witnesses, said ITN. The princess, estanged wife of Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, heir to the British throne: is suing both the Mirror Group and the gym owner for invasion of privacy. The case, scheduled to start in a month's time is expected to hinge on whether or not she knew the pictures were being

Man committed after ploughing car into palace : gate

LONDON (AFP) — A 21-year-old student was commit-ted for psychiatric observa-tion after crashing his car into the outer gates of Queen Elizabeth IPs London residence, Buckingham Palace, police said. The queen andother royal family members were away when the car rammed the huge, ornate metal gates at 4:30 a.m., sending one of them crashing down on its roof and rousing palace guards and staff. The driver was not identified, and a Scotland Yard spokesman said there appeared to have been no malice intended. The man was interviewed later in. the day by psychiatrists at a nearby police station and was then "sectioned to a psychiatric unit under the Mental Health Act," said the police spokesman. He said no criminal charges were lodged, adding: "This is not a normal thing that you would expect a sane person to do."

Vatican sacks outspoken bishop

VATICAN CTTY (R) - The

Vatican said Friday it had removed a leading liberal French bishop from his post because of his unacceptable behaviour and his public stance on certain issues. The rare sanction was taken after Monsignor Jacques Gaillot Bishop of Evreux in Normandy since 1982 and diffused "the red cleric", upset the Roman Catholic hierarchy with his uporthodox views on issues ranging from AIDS to workers' rights: A Vatican statement said the 59-yearold bishop had aroused "anxiety and negative reactioos" through his "behaviour, positions and frequent trips outside the dio-cese." It said Bishop Gaillot, who often aired his views in the media, refused to heedadvice and warnings about his methods. "Unfortunitaly, the bishop did not show himself to be ideal to carrie a unnistry of unity which is the ut a first task of any bishop," the Vatican said. Some senior French clerics said his sacking was inevitable because of long-standing disagreement with his hierarchy. The secretary of the bishop's conference. Jean-Michel Di Falco, said it would leave wounds that would take time to heal. "This is painful not only for himself but for a very large number of faith the large were very close to the large of the large larg priest who campaigns for the rights of the homeless. "Out society will increasingly need men like Jacques Gaillot:

Pierre, the popular Straight, just and honest," Evreux's Communist Mayor

Lebanon Shiite leader issues 'Fatwa' on nuclear treaty widely believed to hold nucthe country to have spoken the Haaretz newspaper said:

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese leader Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir sacked on Saturday two southern Sudan officials for financial irregularities involving public BEIRUT (Agencies) — The funds. State Radio Omdurman said Thomas Kome, governor of unity state in southern Sudan, and his Finance Minister David Wal were dismissed over irregularities involving about 60 million Sudanese pounds (\$143,000). In a separate development, the radio reported Gen. Bashir swore in the heads of the internal and external security the National News Agency organs. It said Hassan Osman Dhahawi, a veteran security officer, had been appointed chief of internal security while Nafie Ali Nafie, a civilian state minister in the president's

office, had been named head of the external security organ. Canadian minister to visit Mideast

OTTAWA (AFP) - Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet will visit Lebanon and Kuwait between Jan. 25 and 28 and will re-open Canada's embassy in Beirut, his office said Friday. Mr. Quellet will meet with visiting delegations of Canadian businessmen during the trip hoping to boost trade and investment ties with the region. In a statement, Mr. Ouellet said: "The reopening of our Beirut embassy marks a turning point in our relations with Lebanon. It will enable Canada to strengthen its political and economic ties with this country and to play a more effective role in the reconstruction work currently under way there."

spiritual head of Lebanon's Shiite Muslims issued a "fatwa" (religious decree) barring Arah and Muslim states from signing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) before Israel does so.

Sheikh Mohammad Mahdi Shamseddine announced the ban at Friday prayers, the agency said.

'I say to Iran and all the Arab and Muslim states that it is forbidden to sign the nnelear treaty until the enemy's nuclear weapon has been disarmed ' Sheikh Shamseddine said. The Non-Proliferation

Treaty comes up for renewal

in April but Arab countries

spearheaded by Egypt are

demanding that Israel sign if

they are to sign it. Israel is

lear weapons but refuses to subscribe to the treaty. Sheikh Shamseddine said Arab and Muslim countries must also have a role in monitoring Israel's compliance to

the treaty. "The conditions for peace are disarming the enemy and forming an international observation team that includes Arabs and Muslims, and after that Arab and Muslim states will sign the treaty and participate in the interna-

he said. There will be no signature of this treaty before those conditions are met." he

tional monitoring system,"

Sheikh Shamseddine heads Lebanon's mainstream Shiite community, the country's biggest religious group. He is the only religious leader in

out on the nuclear nonproliferation issue so far. Lebanon has in the past signed the treaty but the government has not announced its stance on the renewal due. in April.

Egypt-Israel row

Egypt on Saturday condemned as "mentally retarded" an Israeli foreign ministry study which called for harsh measures against Cairo for its latest policies towards the Jewish state.

"It is mentally retarded to say Israel will punish Egypt," Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters. "Thought of punishing Egypt smacks of naivety and a mentality that sends us back years. The Israeli policy planning

department study leaked to

gestions.' He considered the matter "closed" and pointed to re-

Minister Shimon Peres.

"If Egypt continues its negative policies, Israel should take harsh retaliatory measures." It recommended that Israel persuade the United States to reduce aid, suspend regular

political meetings during which Cairo is briefed on the peace process and take negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) out of Egypt. But Mr. Musa said talk of

"punishment" was "unacceptable and unrealistic" and the Israeli officials responsible for the document should "reconsider these sug-

marks by Israeli Foreign Mr. Peres said the study, published in Haaretz on

Thursday, "does not reflect Israel's policy or any of the foreign ministry's positions." Bot relations between Israel and Egypt, which in 1979 became the first Arab country to make peace with the Jewish state, have cooled considerably over the month. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak oo Wedoesday

criticised Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's call for his country to prepare for war in the long term. Egypt has threatened not to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty if Israel refuses to join

Mr. Mnbarak also hosted a mini-Arab summit last month when he, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Syrian President Haiez Al Assad urged Arab countries to slow the rush to set up ties with Israel.

when it comes up for renew-

